

# DC Gazette

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## **IS CITY HALL A FIRETRAP?**

**Grilled onions  
& greasy spoons**

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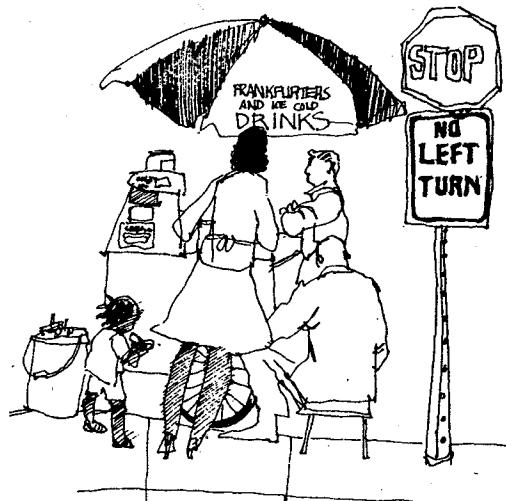
# dc eye

LOCAL BIG BUSINESS says it will accept a hotel occupancy tax to help fund the convention center. But the original tax bill quietly included a reduction in the temporary corporate surtax that would have offset any gains from the hotel levy. At presstime, however, there were reports the surtax would remain — which would end the embarrassing questions. . . QUADRANGLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, owned by Gladstone Associates, chief consultant flacks for the convention center, has just been granted (by the Pa Ave Commission) the northwest corner of 13th & E St. NW for a 200,000 square foot office building. Just to get you oriented, that's five blocks from the southeast corner of the proposed convention center.... FROM SENATE DISTRICT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR PATRICK LEAHY: "I am worried about the economics of the center; it is the largest single appropriation request in the history of DC. If we are off by 6-7% it is definitely a losing proposition."



THE Sterling Tucker affair may signal the beginning of the end of no-fault politics in DC. It has been traditional since we got the first jots of self-government for everyone to cover for everyone else whenever anything goes wrong. We're all supposed to be in this thing together and to suggest that any-

one in mainstream DC politics is less than a competent devotee of the city's best interest is, well, almost treasonable. The attitude has been long rampant in the DC government bureaucracy, which is one of the reasons it has proved so resistant to change. Get a bureaucrat drunk and you'll hear all manner of horror stories about what's going on inside the yo-yo factory; put them on the stand and they'll



perjure their heart to maintain the myth that everything is just peachy.

The same panglossian gloss covers political life. Only the rebels — the obstreperous Doug Moore for example, get publicly punished or chastised for their transgressions. For the rest, it's I-won't-say-anything-about-what-you're-doing-if-you-return-the-favor.

To at least our amazement, it was none other than the Abominable No-Man, Corporation Counsel John Risher, who broke the faith. The extent of our surprise may be measured by reading the last issue of the Gazette in which we suggested that Sterling Tucker's extra-curricular activities would pass unnoticed because no one in city hall seemed inclined to enforce the law. That this was a reasonable, if mistaken, presumption may be gauged by the vituperative verbal assaults to which Risher has been subjected for having the audacity to go into court and ask that the law prohibiting outside employment by the council chairman be at

In any other city here would be nothing surprising about this. In a city which operated under the conventional laws of urban politics rather than as the world's largest Kiwanis Club, no one would be particularly surprised to find the mayor's chief lawyer taking full advantage of the missteps — no matter how slight — of his potentially chief opponent in the next election. But DC is different. Here the same people who went bananas over Watergate pass off as a third rate illegality the council chairman's seeming violation of a law prohibiting him from outside employment. The rule here apparently is that if the law does not fit the chairman, you simply change the law.

That the law is rather picky and tends to usurps the public's right to have whoever it wants in office can surely be argued. But not by Sterling Tucker. Our information is that the law got there in the first place because of lobbying by Tucker, who was anxious to keep John Hechinger, the board and bolt baron, from running for the chairmanship. Tucker, it would seem, has been hoisted on his own amendment. If it was not unreasonable for Tucker to seek a law that would protect his political goals, than it is

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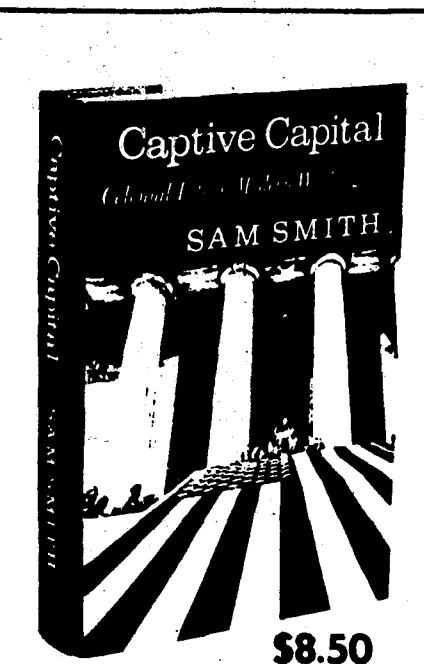
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# Captive Capital

*Colonial Life  
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Here's what people have been saying about Gazette editor Sam Smith's book about local Washington:

Could be an excellent gift for any friend just moving to town. Or any friend who has managed to live here for sometime without learning anything about Washington. . . . Sam Smith's is one of the few efforts I have seen that manages to deal with black people and white people without insulting either." — WILLIAM RASPBERRY, WASHINGTON POST

It is absolutely 'must' reading for all who are interested in this city's history, its political or private life — JAMES TINNEY, WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

Smith's book is a joy to read — ROBERT CASSIDY, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

not unreasonable for the mayor to enforce it for his.

The outside employment issue raises yet another ethical question about Tucker. But he remains remarkably well protected by the power elite of DC. The Post, which has apparently turned its back on the mayor, has managed to keep the various Tucker stories as down-played as possible in preparation for its forthcoming editorial coronating Sterling as our next mayor.

The Post also up-played a survey described as "one confidential political poll" by a "professional polling organization" which indicated that Tucker would beat the mayor 2-1 if they were matched in an election.

Members of the city council expressed outrage at Risher's action. The business community swung behind Tucker. And Joseph Dansansky was applauded when he told the Urgan League's Whitney Young dinner that the league should petition the mayor and council to resolve the Tucker controversy "without publicly embarrassing one of our most valued citizens."

## METROPOLITAN AREA TENNIS AND GOLF GUIDE, 1977 EDITION Ellen Lux, editor

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This last suggestion is a strong reminder that no-fault politics is not yet dead in DC. No mention of the law or the public's interest in all of this. Just end the embarrassment.

At some point politicians in this town will learn that a leaky boat can sink despite their encomiums to it and that it is no favor to DC to insist that the city can only move ahead by pretending that whoever is in power is always doing the right thing. The people in Congress and the White House with whom we have to deal are not so naive to be moved by displays of phony unity. It might help, on the other hand, if we showed some willingness to deal with our problems.

In his own quirky way, Risher has made a small contribution towards instituting an element of reality into local politics. You can suspect his motives, but he deserves at least some credit for being one of the first people in a high position to favor the written law of the city over the unwritten law of the club.

As for Tucker, into whose dreary

hands we may yet be delivered anyway, we offer this glum insight: when the Washingtonian Magazine asked Tucker which books he would take with him to a desert island he listed as his initial choices three that bear his name as author.



IT'S NOT NICE to talk ill of the dead or new-born, but since Metro likes to brag about its ridership, it should be pointed out for comparison's sake, that Montreal's shorter Metro system carries four times the passengers as the local Red and Blue lines. . . . THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS has finally faced up to the Iron Law of Traffic and admitted in a report that traffic across the DC-Virginia bridges will grow worse despite the opening of Metro's Blue Line. A 20% jump is expected by 1980. The problem is that because Metro doesn't compete with autos for space (as streetcars or exclusive bus lines would), the lessened congestion due to nearby suburbanites shifting to the subway will be more than replaced by drivers



in Fairfax County who discover the roads a good way to get to town. It's been happening like that ever since the first freeway was built, but somehow the planners thought Metro could avoid the inevitable.

THE EXTREMELY BROAD LANGUAGE of a proposed change in phone regulations to permit the cops to limit or preclude communications to a particular phone number in order "to protect lives" has been attacked by the ACLU as giving the police and the phone company too much power. The ACLU wants the law clearly limited to hostage situations, and the interruption in service permissible only after a court warrant is issued. The ACLU also suggested that the city council, and not the Public Service Commission, should handle this question. As the law was written it would allow the police to cut off phone service whenever it thought it might protect lives. In the past, such language could have been thought by some police officials to justify cutting off service to, say, a political organization not in their good graces.

A NUMBER OF NOVEL PROPOSALS have come up during Post negotiations with the Newspaper Guild. One is that Guild employees be allowed to phase out their working careers gradually rather than be forced to go "cold turkey" when retirement comes around. Another is for a "Voice Committee" that would provide a forum for the guild and the publisher to discuss issues that are not covered by contract grievance machinery. As an example, the guild cites "creative tension" -- the phrase applied by the top news management to the milieu they think desirable. . . . Our contention is simply this: if an editor seeks to create tension, we ought to have a mechanism with which we can talk about the matter." The guild is also interested in having a forum in which to discuss editorial decisions.

The third proposal is for public representation on the Post board of directors and the fourth is for clerical help for reporters, apparently deluged with mail from their fans and otherwise. As this is written there has been no response from the Post.

THERE'S A MOVEMENT underway to raise the height limit on DC buildings. The skyscraper threat is probably as serious now as it has been at anytime in recent history, as city officials seek ways to avoid bankruptcy. The Star has added its editorial voice to the clamor. Can a consultant report from Gladstone Associates be far behind? . . . IT ALL FITS rather neatly in with developer-backed plans to end the property tax on improvements, thereby forcing low-rises and moderate rent buildings out of the central city.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE SPECULATION TAX? How is Marion Barry going to answer that question when he runs for mayor? Stay tuned. . . . WHEN THEY ASKED THE GAO for an analysis of the Astrodud, GAO raised a number of questions about delegate figures, final costs, and the ability of the city to provide for effective management. And the report noted, "The time constraints imposed has not allowed us to arrive at any definitive views on the economic feasibility of the center." That's funny, because the city council managed to arrive at its conclusion two weeks earlier, without even waiting for the GAO. Just shows how fast you can move when the facts don't matter.

IF YOU HAPPEN to ride a bus that isn't air-conditioned, you're just a fugitive from the law of averages. We have that on the word of Theodore Lutz who claims that his maintenance people sent him a report stating that "98.2% of the air-conditioning units were fully operative." So if your bus is too hot, take a maintenance report home. . . . ACCORDING to another Metro report, nearly 40% of all subway riders earn more than \$24,000 a year. Only 11% earned less than \$8000 a year. Maybe they should call it elite transit. Or the Lawyers Limited.

PEOPLE ARE WONDERING why the UDC board of trustees announced their choice for head of the new university before he had agreed to take the job. He backed out and now the search starts all over again under less auspicious circumstances, as whoever accepts will clearly have been considered second choice. . . . THORNS TO THE CITY COUNCIL for refusing to allow the Ward Four school board seat to be decided at the July special city council election. Instead the board had to fill the vacancy, created by Hilda Mason's selection for the council, by appointment. As board executive secretary Dwight Cropp said, "If they're having a special election why can't we?"

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# Is city hall a firetrap?

CLEMSON SMITH

When the Hanafis took over the District Building last March, they easily controlled the fifth floor, where the Mayor's and City Council's offices are located, because the only exits — four elevators and two stairways — are side by side. In case of fire, the layout could have fatal consequences.

The open stairwells and the lack of exits are major fire code violations found in the District Building by the Fire Inspection Division in a recent report obtained by the Gazette. The report (to the Department of General Services) points out numerous minor violations and recommends the separation (by partitions) of the stairways and the construction of rear exits. "Many problems are of the housekeeping type of situation," said Fire Marshall John Breen, "files and paper stacks, cardboard boxes, excessive use of extension cords, furniture blocking a door or access to a fire extinguisher, missing metal covers from utility boxes, non-conforming walls, partitions and separations (wood panels and wooden doors which are not fire doors, all which increase the chance of fire)."

A follow-up inspection reported most violations were being cleaned up but the two major problems remain in a building which just has alarms and extinguishers for protection. "The only thing the code requires in a building of that type is fire bells to alert people of the danger and of evacuation," said Breen. "It also happens to have a city fire alarm box."

But the fire bells will not be of much help if a fire started on the lower floors. The close proximity of the non-enclosed stairways would allow smoke and heat to simultaneously rise through both, making escape difficult. "It would make the stairways very untenable," continued Breen. "That is why I would like to separate the east and west sides of the building."

Breen would also like to put in a sprinkler system, smoke detectors, and update the alarm system but will not because of budget considerations. "It would not be inappropriate to put in sprinklers in the basement (used for storage), but we did not recommend it because the code does not call for it. We have to keep budget considerations in mind," he said. "It is a decision to be taken by DGS, one we would certainly endorse."

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DGS director Sam Starobin, whose department is in charge of city buildings, will only endorse the report's specific recommendations. "Smoke detectors could be put in right away, but they are made for residential homes, for people who sleep. It would be useless in the District Building," he stated. "A sprinkler system does not eliminate the need for fire exits."

Starobin's reluctance to propose additional equipment stems in part from the building's construction. "It has never caught fire in all the years it has been there (since 1908). If it would catch fire easily, it would have already," he commented. "I do not place it very high on my priorities. First, because it is basically a non-flammable building (made of mason and stone), and second, it is not very high (five stories). You can reach any level with fire ladders."

The fire marshall disagreed. "Sure, the building itself is what we call 'fire resistant'; it would be standing up 10 years after a fire. But (the point) is what you put inside the building," Breen pointed out. "They could also completely rewire the building, which probably needs it, put smoke detectors in areas people do not frequent too often (storage rooms, basements), do additional work in the basement, like replace and install fire doors. They are minor details but important."

Another problem Starobin faces is the city bureaucracy. The renovation of the stairways (but not the construction of rear egresses with exits to D Street) needs the National Capital Planning Commission's and

the city historic preservation office's approval since city hall is a historic building. Then Starobin must face the budget.

"I have to go through the whole process -- the mayor, city council, and Congress," he explained. "I propose to submit a request for the fiscal year 1979 budget. But neither thing is going to be easy. (For the rear exits) we have to break through all five floors. It is extremely heavy construction. But that is after we get the money." Starobin estimates about \$250,000 for the rear exits and \$50,000-\$100,000 for the closing of the stairways.

While Breen understands Starobin's difficulties, the fire marshall thinks it is time something was done. "With the District Building you need a large capital outlay. The department in charge of it cannot just reach into its back pocket (for money) but must look ahead into the next fiscal year budget," he said. "Still, we are very happy the problems in District Building are finally being addressed. It is long overdue to create these improvements. And if the Budget Office was in the fifth floor, more likely they would readily approve these improvements."

Breen even has a theory why after all these years there is an interest in fire safety for City Hall. "I am willing to speculate the Hanafi incident created interest in the rear exits," he suggested. "It is unfortunate of the American system in which you need something like that to get things done. You have to have a serious incident to encourage interest in public safety."

one of the few forms of housing a person of moderate income can afford to purchase, and bank financing will be very helpful."

THE DUPONT CIRCLE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION has asked the corporation counsel for a ruling on whether proper notification was given to it on the convention center legislation. The NC raised a number of legal issues concerning the council's panicky approval of the Astrodome. . . TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY BROCK ADAMS caved into area political pressure and rescinded his demand for a full restudy of the \$300 million Glenmont subway line. Initial plans had called for a study that would include the alternatives of a trolley line or bus lanes down Georgia Avenue, but Adams settled for considering only heavy rail alternatives. Once again, Metro plows ahead without considering whether there might be a cheaper and more sensible way of moving people. . . THE ZONING COMMISSION has also done it again. It approved a spot zoning change from residential to commercial on MacArthur Boulevard against the recommendations of the local Neighborhood Commission. Even the Municipal Planning Office opposed the change for the benefit of National Permanent at MacArthur and Arizona NW. . .

IF YOU want to get even more upset about the way the city has been favoring big commercial properties in its assessment policies, check the June 26 Star. Like the Washington Hilton assessed in 1975 for \$23.8 million but sold in 1974 for \$44.3 million. Don't be surprised if you see Gilbert Hahn getting out at Judicherry Square.

IN ABSOLUTE numbers the school system has taken the worst drubbing in the fiscal wars, but on a percentage basis the Recreation Department and the libraries have fared just as badly. Now the library system is being forced to absorb another \$300,000 cut and more libraries will be closed more hours. They're trying to put the best face on it, calling it regionalization. What that means is you'll just have to go further to get a book. . . THE SAME DAY that the Star published the story about the libraries the piece shared space on the Metro page with word that the city was going ahead with the plan, revealed in last month's Gazette, to give away \$300,000 in funds meant to be used for neighborhood planning to the potential developer of a tract at Buzzard's Point. Oh well, maybe he'll loan us some books.

WE HATE TO KEEP PICKING on Metro, but it did pay for the interest that fell due on July 1 with money borrowed from money it had borrowed to build the subway. When Metro does it's called a "diversion;" when we do it it's a disaster.

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# TOPICS

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AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 1977

## Drinking sewer water

ROLAND DEWOLK

"PEOPLE are going to get damn thirsty before they drink recycled water," said a federal Bureau of Reclamation official recently. But if the western drought continues and current water-purification projects are successful, the thirsty public may soon have to swallow not only its pride but the water that once coursed through its sewers.

Waste-water reclamation has already succeeded in providing some recycled water, pumped through expensive pipelines separate from the regular water supply, for agriculture and industry. But the prime goal of reclamation is drinkable water.

Reclaimed water could then be pumped more economically into existing water systems, avoiding the expense of new pipelines.

The technology is still being refined, and public uneasiness over processing sewage for human consumption is widespread. But the pressures of population growth and drought have already spurred advanced recycling projects in various parts of the country.

Denver, Colorado, has committed itself to waste-water reclamation "more publicly and forthrightly" than any other water district in the country, according to Robert Harris of the Environmental Defense Fund. "There's just not enough fresh water in those mountains," he says.

Kenneth Miller of the Denver Board of Water Commissioners says his agency expects to have a prototype working for one million consumers by 1990.

According to Harris, New York's Suffolk and Nassau counties on Long Island will begin some uses of recycled water in two or three years and will reclaim half of the region's waste-water within 10 to 15 years.

California spends about \$600 million annually — 75 percent federally funded —

on waste-water development. Already 194 recycling projects are in operation in the state — most for irrigation, some for industry, none as yet for human consumption.

California uses about 32 million acre-feet of water annually. Of that total only 180,000 acre-feet are reclaimed, the remainder lost.

John Bryson, chairman of the state Water Resources Control Board, told a US Senate subcommittee recently that 60 percent of the water deficit projected for California by the year 2000 could be made up by waste-water reclamation.

A recent study by Professor William Bruvold of Berkeley's University of California showed that "a substantial portion of the public is not yet ready for the intimate use of reclaimed water."

Public opinion aside, water experts such as James Cofer believe that the technological breakthrough for bringing waste-water to acceptable health standards, if research funding rises, will be just around the corner.

But public health officials like California's Henry Ongerth caution that too hasty an advance will endanger public safety. Some officials claim privately that it will be 10 years before the state will accept domestic use of reclaimed water.

Ironically, however, as University of California professor of sanitary engineering Erman Pearson points out, when waste-waters are given thorough treatment the processed water is often of higher quality than many waters used for domestic water supply.

Much of the pressure for more expenditure on waste-water reclamation comes from environmentalists. The Environmental Defense Fund argues that total costs — such as the loss of a wild river bottled

up by a dam — are never considered when the high cost of reclamation is compared to fresh water diversion projects.

The first hope for economical reclamation of water free of nitrates, viruses, heavy metals and cancer-causing agents was a procedure called reverse osmosis. The process demineralizes water by pressuring it through a semi-permeable membrane. But because reverse osmosis requires an intense amount of energy, the process has been temporarily scrapped.

The current big hope is ground-water recharge. This process calls for the recycling of already treated water into ground-water basins. In addition to prior technical treatment, the process utilizes the earth's natural filtering capacities.

Major water reclamation projects are in various stages of development in other parts of the world — including Australia, Germany, South Africa and Israel.

Windhoek, Namibia, is the only place in the world where waste-water is treated and pumped back into homes for human consumption.

Manahen Rebhun of the Israeli Institute of Technology reports that Israel now reclaims about 80 percent of its sewage. He predicts that by 1980 his country will recycle 200 million cubic feet of waste-water annually — equal to 60 percent of the water taken from the Jordan River, the nation's principal water supply.

Waste-water reclamation is not new. Around 1900, "sewer farms" using effluent from septic tanks were commonly used throughout the US for irrigating non-edible crops such as cotton and tobacco. Most of these primitive systems were soon outlawed, however, by state health control regulations.

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## AMERICAN JOURNAL

DAVID ARMSTRONG

SAN FRANCISCO — The flowers disappeared a long time ago from the corner of Haight and Ashbury, a fact that has not passed unnoticed in this season's spate of Sixties memoirs and confessionalists. Already they fill several books, magazine articles, even a piece on the op-ed page of the New York Times by a properly repentant hippie. It's the 10th anniversary of the Summer of Love, you see, and images of devastation and fashionable despair are the order of the day when invoking the dreams of the past.

The imagery is not hard to come by, as even a casual ride on the number seven bus from downtown San Francisco to Haight Street shows. There are longhaired smack freaks and winos scuttling in front of the Straight Theatre, the tattered bed-

rolls on Hippie Hill in nearby Golden Gate Park where George Harrison once played guitar behind heart-shaped glasses, the anxious laugh of the teenaged girl on the bus, explaining her swollen, discolored face.

"I ran into a doorknob. No, I hit the ground too hard. Actually, I had a fit, to be exact. Do you know what a fit is? It isn't pretty."

No, the imagery isn't hard to come by, either in the Haight or in the media accounts of 1967 and 1977. A laundry list of sex, dope, dirt and cheap thrills formed the basic text of documentaries alternately bewildered and titillated by the children who believed they could change the world, and had the temerity to try. Almost always, they missed the interior life of an embryon-

ic counter-culture that put great store by intuition, spontaneity and a compelling sense that in personal and social change the means are the ends. The updates, by and large, are missing it still.

By the time Harry Reasoner and *Time* arrived, the Haight's days as a mythic laboratory of the Western world were done. Speed and smack had already crippled some of the resident population, and the influx of rootless seekers from across North America didn't help. In part, neighborhood leaders had themselves to blame, having put out the welcome mat in press release and song. The Haight had blossomed in 1965 and '66. By '67 it was all over but the shrieking.

This is a story that is entering our national folklore. It is a neat story,

a story with a moral, and the mainstream media enjoy telling it. They should — it's their business to amplify trends, their pleasure to dismiss them when their usefulness is exhausted — and the apparent ending is in keeping with established cultural values. See, the story seems to say, love isn't all you need. And through the walrus tears about lost innocence comes this question: If it was so beautiful, why didn't it work?

The answer is that for some people, in some very important ways, it did.

As early as 1966 many neighborhood catalysts — and the Haight was a neighborhood before it was a legend — were leaving for the country. This gave tremendous impetus to the back-to-the-land movement that has taken root throughout America, particularly in New England and the Pacific Northwest.

This, in turn, provided fertile ground for Aquarian experiments with organic farming, appropriate technologies, New Age spirituality and a renewed sense of local and regional identity. It also grounded the environmental movement in day-to-day reality and helped provide a focus for the current efforts to defuse nuclear power. Add to that the longish hair now worn nearly everywhere and the impending legalization of marijuana, and the society-wide impact of ideas envisioned and rehearsed in the Haight (and places like it) becomes evident.

The back-to-the-land and related movements have had their setbacks, to be sure. And, no, love isn't all you need, not when you're trying to stop a nuke. Shootouts in Taos between white hippies and Chicanos and the spiritual poverty of farming the land with food stamps are further proof of that.

Such setbacks are real, but they are hardly the whole of the story, for social change is a process, not an encapsulated point in time. Political and cultural activists have always understood this, if the revisionist historians for the sixties have not. If the experiences of the Haight-Ashbury mean anything it's that they are not confined to the place, or even the time, that gave them form.

While these psychic star wars were being waged on several continents, there was a neighborhood to win for those veterans of '67 who decided to stay on in the

Haight. The community weathered a heroin epidemic in the late sixties that nearly paralyzed the common will, then stopped a freeway from going through the Panhandle, where Janis and the Airplane used to play.

There have been defeats, too. The Straight Theatre, home of "dance lessons" (a ruse for illegal concerts) by the Grateful Dead, has long been shut down by the city. Down the street from the ancient Eye of the Beholder coffee house and Middle Earth Books are squeaky-clean boutiques and record marts that bring needed shoppers' dollars to the neighborhood even as they threaten its essential character. There's a McDonald's now directly across from the park on the corner of Haight and Stanyan that the community didn't want.

The runaways are still on the street, with the skinny dogs with bright kerchiefs tied to their necks at their feet. But they're serviced now by a streetwise switchboard, a magazine, a community radio project

and a free clinic that's a model for the nation. The tourists are there, too, drawn by the after-image of a midsummer night's dream. In all, the Haight-Ashbury in the summer of 1977 has the air of a neighborhood that never went all the way down, and has never come all the way back.

Most of the people who gave the Haight its initial spark in the mid-sixties don't live there anymore. Where do they live? A facetious-sounding answer is 'everywhere,' but it's true. What do they do? Publish magazines, save the whales, organize demonstrations, work farms, teach school, study. The best of them have done more than survive, they've endured.

Most are keeping low profiles this time around. As Trips Festival impresario Stewart Brand told writer Charles Perry: "In 1965 there was a small group of people filled with some kind of fervor, which really didn't need an audience, but wanted one, so far as I could tell. And out of wanting an audience, it got one, and out of getting it didn't want it anymore."

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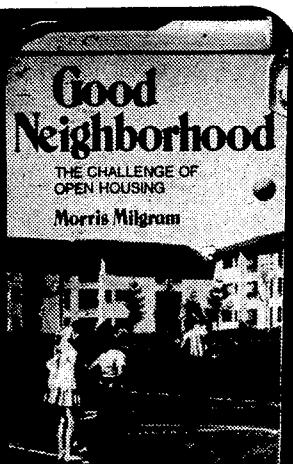
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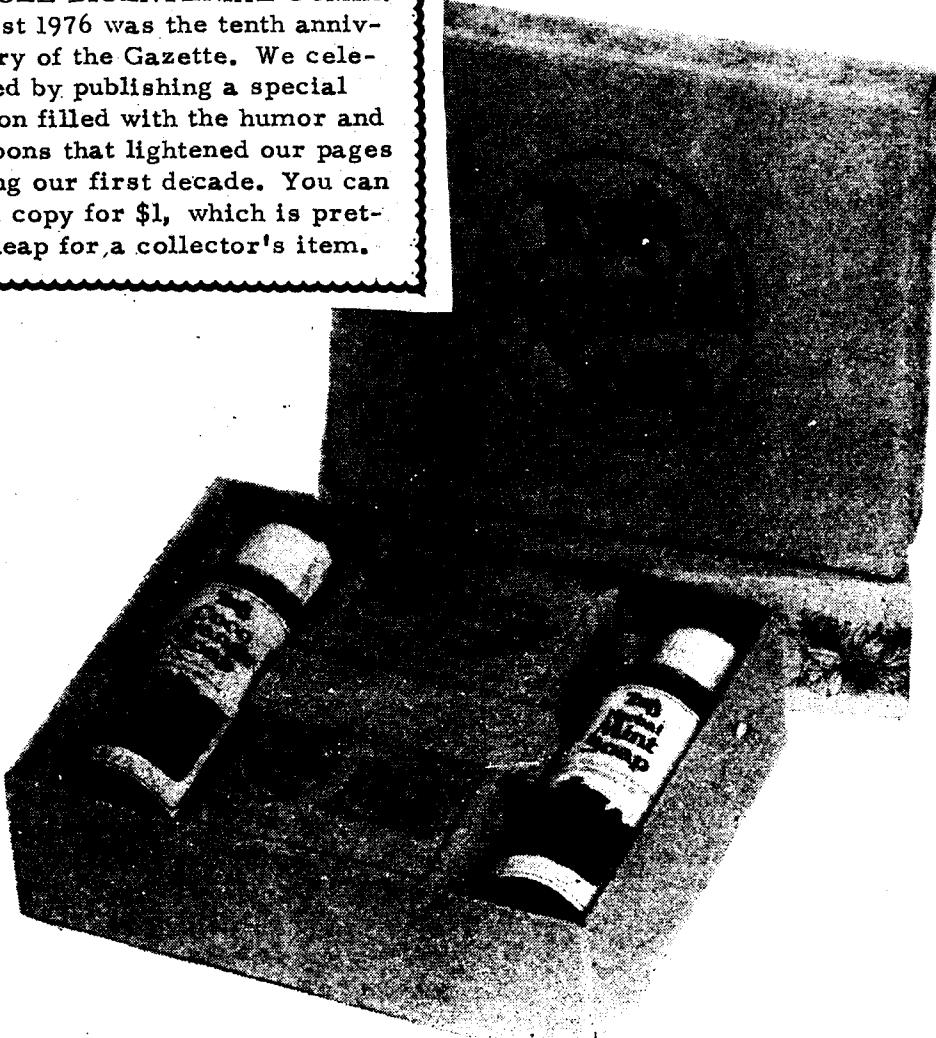
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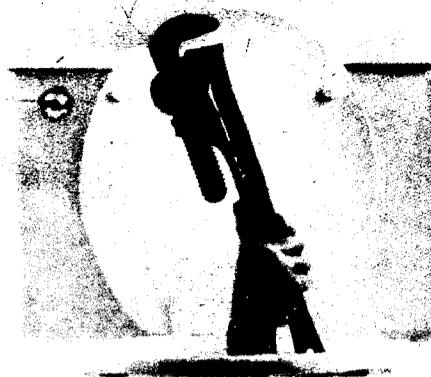
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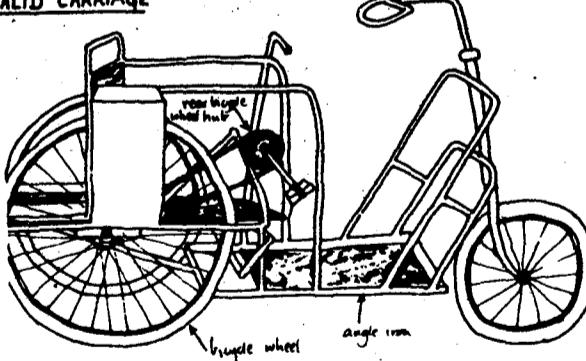
A Guide to Practical Books and Plans for Village and Small Community Technology

Ken Darrow and Rick Pam

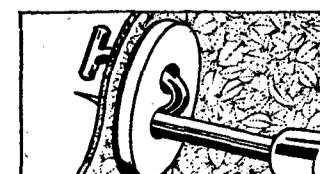
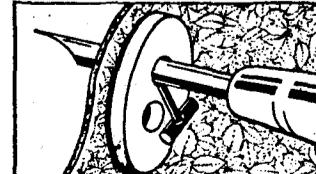
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## Grand Jury FACT SHEET, Summer, 1977

### WHY should you be concerned about grand jury abuse?

Because the grand jury, originally written into the Bill of Rights to shield citizens from arbitrary government power, has become nothing more than a prosecutor's rubber stamp, an oasis from due process of law to the Constitutional guarantees Americans take for granted everywhere else in our judicial system.

### The legislative lowdown in the 95th Congress

Of the grand jury reform bills now before the House subcommittee studying the federal grand jury, the most likely to pass is H.R. 94, The Grand Jury Reform Act of 1977, introduced by Rep. Joshua Eilberg, the subcommittee's chair. H.R. 94 is a solid reform bill, but it doesn't include all the reforms necessary to fully choke off grand jury abuse. Unfortunately, H.R. 94 also contains several clauses that could boomerang and wind up as loopholes that prosecutors could exploit to undercut the bill's reform provisions. The task for grand jury reformers is to see to it, first, that the valuable reforms proposed by H.R. 94 are not watered down; second, that the potential loopholes in H.R. 94 are eliminated; and, third, that reforms raised by other bills—like Rep. John Conyers, Jr.'s H.R. 3736—which are not included in H.R. 94 are added to it. While several subcommittee members have acknowledged the grand jury problem by sponsoring reform legislation (besides Rep. Eilberg, Reps. Fish, Holtzman and Evans), all the subcommittee's members need to know that Americans want a thorough-going overhaul of the grand jury system, no piecemeal tinkering.

### The major points of controversy

**Immunity**—Under the "use immunity" statute now in effect, grand jury witnesses can be forced to answer questions over their Fifth Amendment objections and jailed for contempt if they refuse. Witnesses who don't refuse can still be prosecuted on the subject of their testimony. H.R. 94 forbids the prosecution of immunized witnesses for anything other than perjury, but this is not enough. No witnesses should be immunized against their will. Prosecutors with the power to force answers to their questions are prosecutors with the power to force answers to questions they have no business asking. Since 1970, U.S. Attorneys have compelled attorneys to testify about their clients, journalists about their sources, strikers about their unions and dissenters about their political activities. Urge the abolition of limited "use" immunity and its replacement by full immunity conditional upon the consent of the witness to be immunized—"consensual immunity."

**Witness rights**—Federal prosecutors can now have anyone subpoenaed from anywhere at any time without an explanation. H.R. 94 gives witnesses seven days between the service of a subpoena and their appearance date, the right to know what crimes are under investigation and the right to be told whether they are targets of the investigation. H.R. 94, however, allows courts to eliminate advance notice upon a prosecutor's motion. Urge representatives to guarantee all grand jury witness rights, without exceptions.

**Counsel**—H.R. 94 allows grand jury witnesses the assistance of counsel inside the grand jury chamber, but limits the counsel to advising the witness and allows courts to dismiss counsel on the vague grounds of "delaying" or "impeding" grand jury proceedings. Courts can already discipline unruly attorneys under contempt statutes. This new proposed power gives the courts the ability to dismiss a defense attorney a witness likes, but the government doesn't. Urge the axing of H.R. 94's defense attorney dismissal clause.

### Spread the word!

Do you have friends, neighbors or co-workers who might want to help push for grand jury reform? Copies of this Fact Sheet—and literature on every aspect of grand jury abuse and the citizen's drive to end it—are available from the Coalition to End Grand Jury Abuse, 105 Second St.,

N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. The Coalition also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Grand Jury Report*, which is available free upon request. Donations are, of course, welcome—and needed.

**COALITION TO END GRAND JURY ABUSE**, 105 Second St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 547-0138:  
 American Civil Liberties Union • National Lawyers Guild • National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee • National Conference of Black Lawyers • National Bar Association • National Legal Aid and Defender Association • Association of Trial Lawyers of America (Criminal Section) • Unitarian Universalist Association • United Methodist Board of Church and Society, Department of Law, Justice and Community Relations • United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, National Women's Division • Church of the Brethren • Jesuit Conference Office of Social Ministry • Southern Christian Leadership Conference • Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America • International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union • American Friends Service Committee • National Student Association • National Organization for Women • Women's International League for Peace and Freedom • International Printing and Graphic Communications Union • The Newspaper Guild

store) and a large horizontal white sign with the word solar in yellow.

Boe's business has been mostly in the black since it started, and his success in combining consumer education with marketing has spawned at least three other similar stores across the nation. "We are promoting solar energy essentially because not enough people are doing it," the former management consultant for Environmental Action Foundation stated. "We have steadily gained sales and our volume is going up. There are a lot of people who are conscious, really aware of solar energy! And they are coming to us from all over the place, wanting to know how to do it and what to do."

At a recent solar fair sponsored by The Sky is Falling, most visitors were buying books and pamphlets on solar energy. One happy customer left with about fifteen. "We have a large variety of customers," said Christiana Graham. "A lot of them now are ones who have come in before and have learned. But a lot of people still do not know solar equipment exists."

Graham, a native German, and the rest of the 25-member staff are well aware of the importance of energy conservation. Most of them, like Boe, worked with environmental groups where they received their first introduction to solar energy. "You got a lot of theory and no practical experience," commented Drew Stamps. "The need for this type of store was obvious. There was no place a customer could come down and look at collectors."

"Last year's gas shortage threatened residential life. And a possible shortage is predicted for next year," he continued. "This is the type of thing people can understand. The era of cheap fuel is over."



## Who Owns the World?

Over the last five years, US food prices increased by 57.8 percent, electricity rates went up 65.3 percent, and your income declined by more than one third in purchasing power. Unemployment rose. Hunger grew. And ecological destruction increased alarmingly.

The only way to reverse these trends is to expose their cause: the secret operations of the owners of the world's resources. Since we believe the world's resources are a common heritage of all mankind, *The Elements* reports on who owns the world, and what people are doing to protect their resources.

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Any solar energy investment will increase in value."

While the cost of solar equipment is high — from \$1,000 to \$500 dollars, depending on its quality and installation — it drastically reduces monthly utility bills. And that people can understand.

A problem any solar enthusiast faces is the large number of solar manufacturers

in the country, more than 200. Most of the equipment is standardized, though not mass produced. But because of the differences in climates, geographical location, daily amount of sunlight, solar panels produced in Florida might not be efficient in Maine. "You will have to have regional manufacturers," added Boe. "But most of them do not do that, they just produce one standard type of equipment."

Unlike the little chicken who thought the sky was falling when he got hit by an apple, Boe hopes people do not wait until they are hit by another energy shortage before they start caring about where their energy comes from.



## City lines



DROUGHT-THIRSTY westerners have been doing a lot of water measuring lately, and they've come up with some interesting, if scary, figures.

Irrigation experts have calculated, for instance that 447 gallons of water is needed just to produce enough cotton for a single shirt.

232 gallons are required to produce just a quart of milk. That estimate includes irrigation for silage and alfalfa hosing down to keep barns sanitary and providing drinking water for the cow.

Then, there's the household staples which also drink up the water supply. The water measurers discovered that one common ordinary loaf of bread required 136 gallons of irrigation water; and that a pound of tomatoes requires 125 gallons to produce.

YOUNG girls who run away from home stand more of a chance of ending up in juvenile detention hall than do boys.

In fact, recent studies by the American Bar Association have found girls are more likely to be jailed for a variety of non-criminal offenses than are boys.

The association also found that girls — once they are in juvenile institutions — are given less career training and social, medical and psychiatric care than are boys.

THE Wall Street Journal reports that a growing number of psychiatrists and criminologists are beginning to suspect that foods — particularly sweets — are a major cause of violent crime.

The Journal says that researchers have uncovered numerous documented instances where people, suffering from blood-sugar problems, have flown into uncontrollable violent rages after eating chocolate or even a banana.

One psychiatrist in Saskatchewan, Abram Hoffer, has reportedly found that 90 percent of the convicted murderers there who are diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenics actually suffer from low blood sugar or some vitamin deficiency.

THE American Medical Association is warning that a number of inmates in the nation's numerous prisons are carrying dangerous and communicable diseases.

The AMA says it recently examined 641 prisoners for a study sponsored by the federal government's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The study found that nearly 13 percent of the inmates tested positive for tuberculosis, nearly 6 percent had positive results for syphilis, and 30 percent had liver problems which are usually associated with infectious hepatitis.

The AMA says that prisoners are especially likely to catch communicable diseases because the nation's jails are so over-crowded, and because medical care in prisons is often inadequate.

THE Detroit News, in a copyrighted article, is reporting that a compact submachine gun equipped with a laser beam sight, is quite being sold to police departments around the United States.

The gun reportedly fires 30 22-caliber bullets a second with precision accuracy. It can be used — in the News words — "to shoot down telephone poles, blast through sheets of steel and cinder block" and penetrate a brick wall.

The newspaper identifies the weapon as the "American 180 laser-aimed submachine gun." It is described by weapons experts interviewed by the newspaper as "the deadliest weapon ever developed."

Charles Goff, the president of American International Corporation, the maker of the laser gun, is quoted as reporting that at least 150 local police agencies in the US already have purchased a total of more than 1000 of the weapons.

The gun reportedly comes equipped with a silencer, that permits it to be fired while making a noise no louder than a standard typewriter. According to the News, the sight on the weapon relies on a pencil-thin scarlet laser beam that enables shooters to fire with perfect accuracy even after dark at targets up to one mile away.

TWO Los Angeles researchers have found that the airport noises like the Concorde may trigger nervous breakdowns.

The researchers, H.G. Smith and W.C. Meecham, studied the admissions rate at mental hospitals in two Los Angeles areas — one in Inglewood, where the LA International Airport is located; and the other in El Segundo, a few miles away.

According to Smith and Meecham, the jet noise in Inglewood exceeded 90 decibels; while it was considerably lower than that in El Segundo.

Smith and Meecham, working at the University of California at Los Angeles, say they found that the mental hospital admissions were 29 percent higher in Inglewood, even though the two areas were racially, economically and socially similar. The only real difference, the researchers say, is that the people of Inglewood live with constant jet racket.

A similar study done at London's Heathrow Airport showed a 31 percent higher rate of nervous breakdowns in areas located close to that airport.

WHICH types of attorneys have the highest prestige among their colleagues?

The American Bar Foundation recently asked lawyers and legal scholars in Chicago to rate 30 legal specialists on the basis of their prestige. The three highest ratings were given to securities law, tax law and anti-trust law — all of them "big business" specialities. Receiving the lowest prestige rankings were, in 28th place, landlord-tenant law; 29th place, divorce law; and dead last, poverty law.

Interestingly, civil liberties law was ranked highest in ethics but only 20th in prestige.

## Getting along

A MICHIGAN Woman, who claims to have cracked the top-secret recipes of some of America's most popular junk foods — reports she has figured out the formula for Orange Julius.

Gloria Pitzer of Pearl Beach, Michigan — a one-time chemistry student — has spent the past few years trying to duplicate such things as the Big Mac, Colonel Sanders'

Chicken, Oreo Cookies and Orange Julius drinks in her own kitchen.

As an example, in a cookbook released last year, she reported that batter used in Arthur Treacher's fish and chips can be duplicated exactly by mixing regular pancake mix with club soda. To produce the white-creamy filling in an Oreo cookie, she says all you have to do is mix

equal amounts of Crisco and powdered sugar together with a dash of water.

After Pitzer claimed she had cracked the secret formulas for such popular favorites as the special sauce on Big Macs and the crispy coating on Kentucky Fried Chicken, she received a legal warning from the makers of Orange Julius.

The company reportedly threatened to sue her if she published the recipe that purportedly duplicated an Orange Julius. As a result, Pitzer's book now uses names such as Orange Judas, Big Matches, Gloreo's Cookies and Hopeless Twinkles to identify what it is duplicating.

According to Pitzer, an "Orange Judas" consists of a cup of orange juice blended with half-a-cup of non-fat dry milk, two tablespoons of sugar and a few drops of vanilla.

A NEW St. Louis University medical study has found that filter-tip cigarettes may produce more hazards to your heart than do regular cigarettes.

Doctor Jerome Cohen of the university's medical school says that tests involving nearly 200 male volunteers have found that filter-tip smokers had 20 percent higher levels of carbon monoxide in their blood than did non-filter smokers.

Carbon monoxide, according to the doctors, is believed to be particularly harmful to the heart.



UNIVERSITY of California at Santa Barbara doctoral candidate Pamela Fishman analyzed 52 hours of tapes made in the apartments of three middle class couples between the ages of 25 and 35.

The researcher concluded that even though the couples were aware they were being taped, the men still controlled topics of conversation by vetoing subjects they didn't like, as well as by bringing up only the subjects they wanted to talk about.

Fishman says that women raised nearly twice as many topics of conversation as the men, because so many of the women's topics failed to elicit any response.



WOMEN ARE OFTEN UNWILLING to tell a doctor or therapist that their husbands beat them up.

Elaine Hilberman of the University of North Carolina Medical School, in a study of a North Carolina clinic over a 12-month period, found that only two of 60 beaten wives talked about the violence against them openly when they sought medical treatment.

After studying the backgrounds of the beaten women, Hilberman drew up a checklist of symptoms by which health workers can find and help battered wives who don't want to, or don't dare, say they were beaten.

Telltale signs to watch out for, Hilberman said, are bruise marks, evidence of children with sleep and behavior problems; alcoholic or very jealous husbands; and frequent clinic visits by the wife, along with depression or suicidal behavior on her part.

SHOULD WOMEN HANDLE the money in a family?

The president of the Women's Stockbroker's Association contends that women might be better than men are when it comes to taking risks in the stock market.

Myrna Liebowitz explains that men "refuse to admit they have made a mistake buying a stock and hold on to it despite tremendous losses."

Men, she says "allow their emotions to control their market decisions." Women - on the other hand - she says, "are more calculating in their market dealings."

A UNIVERSITY of Florida health researcher claims to have documented the fact that the smoking of marijuana often leads to the use of a more dangerous drug.

Doctor Siegfried Fagerberg of Gainesville says that the harder drug which many pot-smokers later turn to is not L.S.D. or heroin, but tobacco.

The doctor states that a survey he made of junior high students discovered that many kids who "started with marijuana smoking" later turned to cigarettes and got hooked on tobacco.

WOMEN make up over 40 percent of the US labor force, the highest percentage in history, but, women account for only 2.3 percent of those earning more than \$25,000 a year.

## NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

FIRST it was the "Loyalty Oath." Now students at the nine university college campuses and elsewhere in the U.S. are being asked to sign what are called "Anti-Riot" oaths.

Students receiving federal aid under five university programs are being asked to state in writing - on a pink form - that they have never been in campus "disruptions."

The "anti-riot" clause reportedly grew out of a series of federal appropriations acts created in 1976 and 1977 to fund student financial aid programs. According to the financial aid office at the Berkeley campus, "directly participating and extremely aggressive" behavior at a campus demonstration would probably be ruled as being "involved" in campus demonstrations as defined in the federal rule.

The Berkeley office says the "anti-riot" clause has no connection at all with recent demonstrations on campuses against U.C. investment policies in South Africa.

THE Atlantic magazine is reporting that scientists with the US space agency have uncovered strong evidence of life on the planet Mars, but are afraid to say so publicly.

According to the magazine, the case in favor of Martian organisms has been strengthening steadily over the past eight months as additional information is radioed back by the two Viking Landers on the Martian surface.

The Atlantic claims the experiments have now almost totally ruled out the possibility that the initial strange readings that were received were being caused by chemical

reactions. Instead, says The Atlantic, biologists are finding evidence of life.

The magazine says that despite this evidence, most scientists are terrified to make public predictions. The magazine says such forecasts are bound to make headlines, and if they happen to prove wrong, a scientific reputation could be ruined forever.



# A new approach to health care

ON May 4, Rep. Ron Dellums introduced HR 6894, the Health Service Act, which proposes to establish a totally new approach to national health care. The following question and answers, which originally appeared in *The Elements*, explain the basic idea of the Dellums bill.



## *Why a health service?*

Growing numbers of Americans realize that the present health care system, based on the private delivery of health care and financed on a fee-for-service basis, is unable to meet the health care needs of this country. One response has been to propose some form of national health insurance. However, no insurance plan will guarantee that health care services are available to everyone, or will improve the quality of current services.

Instead of propping up an inadequate system with payment mechanisms and inadequate quality reviews, the Health Service Act will establish a health care system that provides comprehensive health services to all Americans and is accountable to those it serves. This will be a publicly-controlled and operated health service employing health workers who will directly serve the public. Any scheme short of this can, at best, only ameliorate the ailments of the present health care system.

## *What is the United States Health Service Organization?*

The United States Health Service Organization is a non-profit corporation that is democratically-controlled and nationally-funded to deliver health care in communities throughout the United States.

## *Who can use the health service?*

Any individual, while within the territory of the United States, will be able to receive services from the Organization.

## *What services will be provided?*

The Organization will provide, without charge, a full range of medical, dental, and mental health services, as well as occupational, home health, and health education services. Drugs and medical equipment will be furnished without charge. Environmental inspections and monitoring services will be conducted, where this is consistent with state and local laws.

These services will be provided through facilities established and maintained by the Organization. Except in emergencies, the Organization will not pay for services provided elsewhere. Three years after the Organization begins full operation, it will not be possible for private practitioners (who charge their patients a fee) to use the facilities of the Organization.

## *How will physicians and other health workers be compensated?*

All health workers will receive salaries commensurate with their job requirements and experience. Workers can receive increases in salary

and be certified for job advancement through recognition of successful performance and through enhancement of their skills.

## *What will be the structure of the Organization?*

The Organization will be set up as a four-tier system — the community, district, region, and national level. The base of the system is the "community", a geographic area with a population of between 25,000 and 50,000 (less in rural areas or in other special circumstances). In each community, primary health care services — general outpatient medical care, emergency services, mental health services — will be provided through community health centers, physicians' offices, laboratories, pharmacies, and other facilities. To the maximum extent feasible, nursing homes, multiservice centers for the handicapped, and mental health facilities will be located in the community to promote the integration of persons using these facilities into the community.

Several communities will be joined together to form a "district", with a population of between 100,000 and 500,000. Each district will have a general hospital and a health team school, where all health workers will receive their education.

Several districts will be joined together to form a "region", with a population of between 500,000 and 3,000,000 (more if necessary to enclose an entire metropolitan area). Each region will have a medical center providing highly specialized medical services and technical assistance to districts and communities.

## *How will those who use the services of the Organization, and those who work for it, run it?*

Community health boards chosen in community-wide elections will plan the delivery of health services, hire health workers, and assume overall responsibility for all community health services. District health boards, appointed by the community health boards in the district (with each community appointing one member) will oversee health facilities at the district level. Regional health boards appointed by the district health boards in the region will oversee health facilities at the regional level, conduct the community elections, and assist community and district health boards in performing their duties. Lastly, a National Health Board appointed by the regional health boards will carry out overall planning and budgeting and

establish guidelines for the provision of health services by the Organization.

All health facilities will be managed by the workers in them on a democratic basis. Each health board, in consultation with the workers, will develop a plan for democratic decisionmaking within each facility, including the equal participation of health workers at all skill levels. Health workers can also bargain collectively with the health boards on wages, benefits, and working conditions.

## *What special rights and guarantees will health service users have?*

A Bill of Health Rights incorporated into the legislation guarantees users of the Organization's health services access to all its services, to their choice of health worker and facility, to information and explanations in their primary language about their health status and any treatment or procedure, and to advocacy and legal assistance. Specific protections are included for women, children, and institutionalized individuals to ensure rights associated with their special situations and health needs.

## *How will the quality of health care be assured?*

In contrast to the present medical licensing system, this Act calls for continuing review and assessment of the competency of health care providers, with oversight by representatives of those who use health services as well as those who provide them.

The National Health Board will establish national guidelines for area health boards in training, hiring, and certifying health workers to deliver specific types of services. The National Board will also establish certification standards for medical specialists, while regional boards will set such standards for other health workers. In this way the different regions will be able to assure the quality of those who deliver health care in their area, while having the flexibility to develop new categories and conditions of health service.

The ultimate safeguard of quality, however, is the control of service delivery by health boards accountable to those who use the service, able to draw for advice and technical support upon all the professional expertise employed by the Health Service Organization.

## *Will this bill provide occupational health services?*

Unlike any of the current health insurance proposals, this bill will provide extensive occupational health

services. Screening, diagnosis, treatment, and education for the detection and prevention of occupational hazards and diseases will be provided by community health boards. Workers will participate in running the occupational health services in their communities and workplaces through elected community occupational safety and health committees which will perform monitoring and other functions to protect the safety and health of workers.

## *How will this bill address the present maldistribution of health workers and funds?*

Operating funds will be allocated to regions, districts, and communities on a per capita basis, so that all areas will have funds proportionate to their populations. This will allow presently underserved areas, especially those where low income and minority persons live, and many rural areas, to overcome their present serious shortages of physicians, other health workers, and health facilities. Special funds, amounting initially to 2 percent of all operating funds, will be allocated to communities where low-income persons live, to help them alleviate the burden of health problems they now have.

The present maldistribution of health workers will be dealt with by requiring that graduates of health team schools serve in underserved areas for at least a period equal to the duration of their education, and by requiring that health boards not hire particular types of health workers if they have substantially greater numbers of them while other areas have substantially less.

## *How will users of the Organization's services be protected from failure of health boards to perform their duties?*

Members of health boards will be accountable to the people who elected them and the boards that appointed them. If they fail to meet the health needs of their areas, or neglect their duties, members of community health boards can be recalled, upon petition by 15 percent of the adult residents in their community and a recall election to determine whether they can remain in office. Members of other boards can be removed from office by two-thirds vote of the board that appointed them.

Regional boards will be empowered to investigate complaints regarding the actions of community or district boards. In the event they determine that there has been mismanagement of funds or other failure or misconduct, they can suspend or restrict the board, appoint a trustee to take over its affairs, and hold a new election for a community board or see that a new district board is appointed. The National Health Board will perform similar oversight of regional boards, and the Secretary of the Treasury (as the ultimate custodian of federal funds) will perform the corresponding review of the National Health Board.

## *How will the education of health workers be conducted under this bill?*

Health workers will receive their education from the Organization, in health team schools organized by district health boards. They will begin their education by sharing classroom

and clinical experiences in a restructured educational process. Curriculum design will maximize the studies undertaken in common by students preparing for the various types of health work and will emphasize the social basis of health. As students progress, their studies will branch out and extend into the various categories of health-related skills and knowledge.

Admissions policies will emphasize previous health-related work experience and encourage the entrance of students who reflect the composition of the district's population. No tuition will be charged, and there will be stipends for living and educational expenses. Each health team school will be governed by representatives of the district residents and the faculty and students of the school.

Regional health boards will be responsible for advanced specialty training. Entrants into specialized education programs will reflect the composition of the region's population, and consideration will be given to previous work experience and achievement as evaluated by peers, users, and faculty.

#### *How will health research be conducted under this bill?*

The Organization will be mandated to conduct an extensive program of health and health care research. The first priority will be on the prevention and correction of the leading causes of illness and death, including environmental, occupational, and social factors. Research will be performed, to the maximum extent possible, under the auspices of community and district health boards, to ensure it is responsive to the health needs of people in their communities and workplaces.

#### *How will the Organization be financed?*

In spite of the expansion of services, the cost of operating the Organization will be less than the cost of the present health care system. The elimination of administrative costs associated with the insurance industry and its complex billing procedures, the expected decrease in unnecessary hospitalization and treatment from the elimination of fee-for-service medical practice, and the elimination of excessive fees and profits are estimated to reduce the total cost by at least 20 percent.

Funds to run the Organization will come from a Health Service Trust Fund containing receipts from a special health service tax on individual and corporate incomes and from general federal revenues. The individual health service tax will rise with increasing income. Low- and middle-income individuals having taxable incomes (after deductions) less than \$10,000 will pay only 1% (equivalent to the Medicare payroll tax now in force, but repealed when the Organization begins providing health services). Higher-income individuals and corporations will pay substantially higher taxes, and general revenues will contribute the amount now spent by federal, state, and local governments on health services (federal payment of these will be a form of additional revenue sharing to states and localities).

Funds will be distributed to regions, districts, and communities on a uniform per capita basis, with special funds allocated to communities and districts for the care of persons over 65 years of age, persons confined to full-time residential care institutions, and low-income persons, and to meet special environmental, occupational, and other health needs of particular regions.

The division of funds between the district and community levels will be determined by the district boards, but

## HEALTH ACTION

Congressman Dellums has made clear that he views the Health Service Act as only the initial version of health service legislation, and he wants to involve as many people as possible in revising the bill. To facilitate this process, Health Service Action will prepare and distribute educational materials. Those wishing to receive a detailed summary and copy of H.R.6894, and to be placed on a mailing list to receive additional information are asked to send a contribution to HSA, PO Box 6586, T Street Station, Washington, DC 20009.

will require the consent of a majority of the community boards in each district. Similar procedures will be followed in dividing funds between the regional and district levels, and the national and regional levels. Thus all health boards will have an equal role in determining the allocation of funds.

#### *How will the transition from the present system to the new health service be made?*

Immediately after this law is enacted, the President will appoint an Interim National Health Board, broadly representative of the American people, to oversee the start of the transition process. It will draw the regional boundary lines and appoint an interim regional health board for each region. These boards in turn will draw boundaries for districts and communities, and will then conduct elections for the members of community health boards. The boundaries drawn by these interim boards can be modified by the per-

manent boards once they are established, using a procedure in which residents of the affected areas will participate.

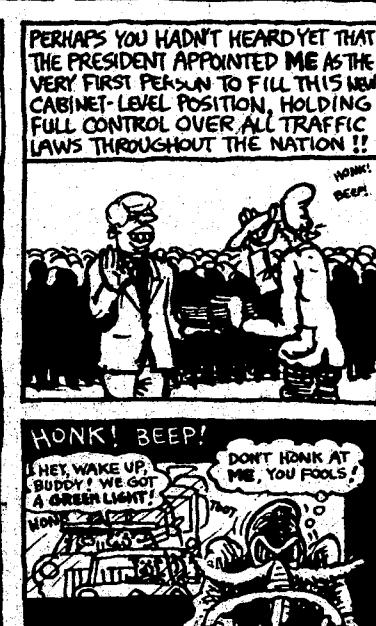
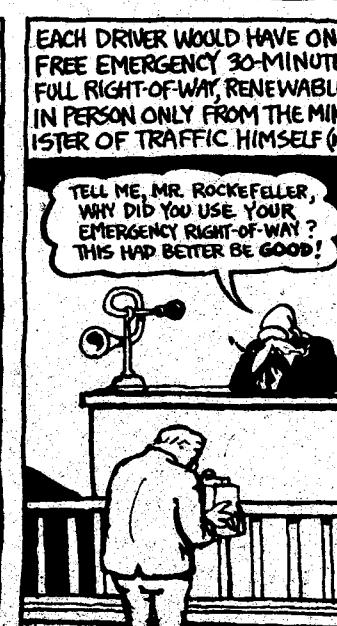
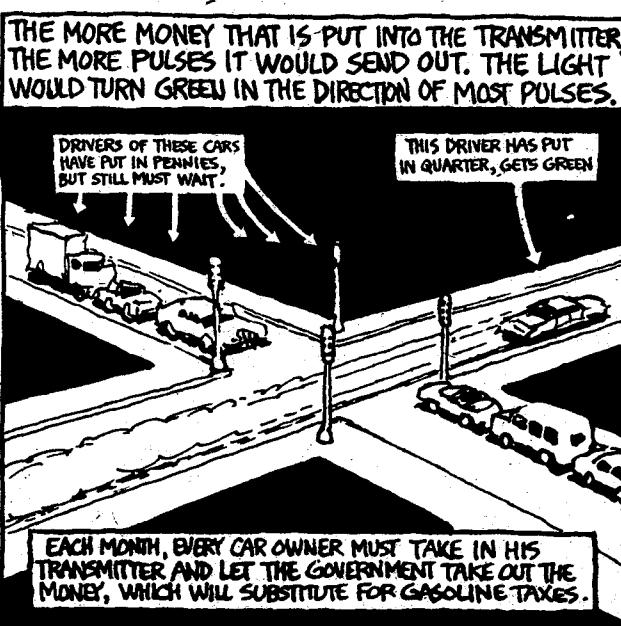
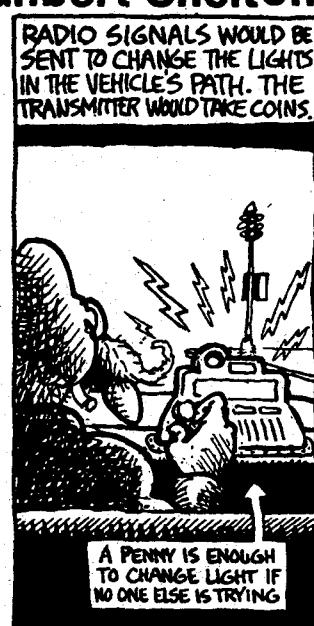
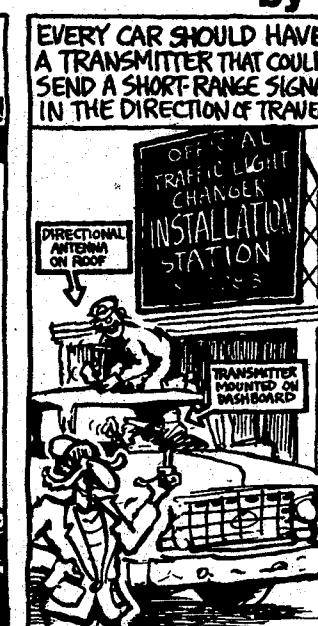
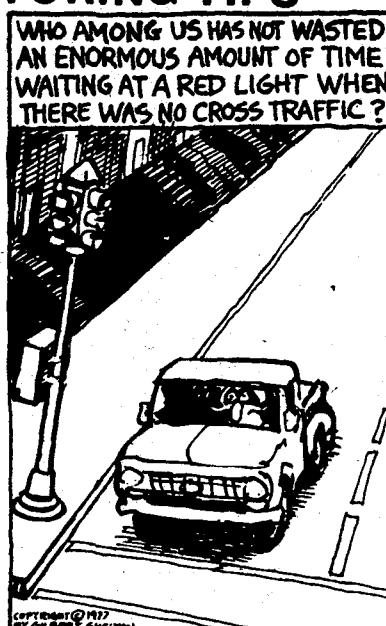
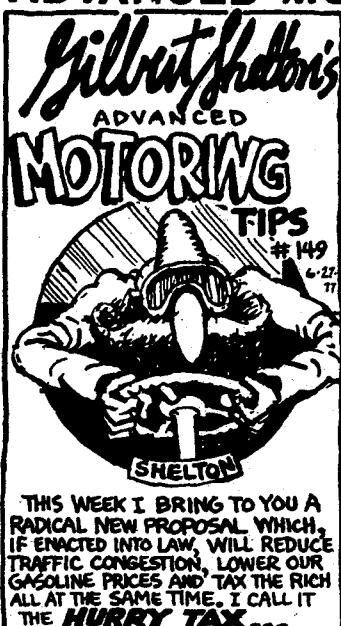
Once community health boards are elected, they will begin identifying sites for health facilities acquiring buildings, and hiring health workers, and they will appoint the members of district health boards. Each board in turn, as it is appointed, will begin preparing to carry out its assigned responsibilities.

Two years after the bill is enacted, the National Health Board will begin functioning, and the delivery of health services will start two years later. All the health-care-related functions now carried out under the direction of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare will then be transferred to the Organization. Every two years thereafter, there will be elections for members of community health boards, and subsequent appointments of new members of the district, regional, and national boards.

In cases where particular boards are not ready, at the end of the four-year start-up period, to assume responsibility for the full delivery of services, these will be provided in neighboring areas or through private practitioners reimbursed under current Medicare arrangements. These temporary measures will remain in effect for up to three additional years.

The educational programs will be fully operating four years after the start-up of services (eight years after enactment of this bill).

## ADVANCED MOTORING TIPS



# Letters

ON May 1, the Public Resource Center was born.

The work of the center will focus on the humane and democratic use of this country's vast resources in the public interest. Our work will stress two themes: community federalism, the linking of communities across this land in struggle for justice and liberation; and political ecology, the bringing together of citizen power, economic democracy, and decent respect for the integrity of the biosphere.

The process of becoming the center involved considerable pain and struggle. As many of you know, during the past six months we organized the Union of Fellows and Faculty and tried to bargain collectively with the Institute for Policy Studies. Many of you tried to help us in that process, when we urgently needed your help — and we are deeply grateful. But we were not able to persuade the Institute to join in collective bargaining, and we believe that a prolonged impasse would have proved destructive to our work. We therefore worked out a settlement with the Institute including a grant that enables us to do the work of the center for its first year. In return all of us have resigned as Fellows of IPS, which for some of us included relinquishing tenure as well.

Our work will continue to have three main emphases: (1) critical analysis and reporting on corporate and governmental exploitation of this country's public resources; (2) the interconnecting, through seminars, conferences, newsletters, and our own travel, of movements and networks which struggle, in difficult but exciting circumstances, to create new forms at the local level; and (3) the development of alternative programs which build on, and support, the best of progressive local movement toward a new national agenda stressing democracy, equality, and ecology.

We will be continuing and extending our work on the uses of the public lands and resources; on the community-based economic development of our cities and regions toward full employment; on a community-based approach to national health; on new labor, work relations, and working public management policies; on the building of networks of cooperative agriculture; on the ways in which neighborhoods and religious, ethnic, and racial communities can meet the deep human need for cultural authenticity and help to create an ecologic economic democracy.

Special projects of the center will include an urban food project, looking toward public responsibility for growing, processing, and selling low-cost, nourishing food; a study of the political, institutional, economic, and spiritual situation of the American Jewish community; the editing of the Newsletter of the Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies, as a way of reaching out to new electoral movements; and the development of a theory and practice of feminist politics.

BARBARA BICK, CHARLOTTE BUNCH, ROBB BURLAGE, BETTINA CONNER, JAMES RIDGEWAY, LEN RODBERG, FRANK SMITH, CYNTHIA WASHINGTON, ARTHUR WASKOW

(The center is located at 1747 Conn. Ave., NW, DC 20008, 483-7040.)

## MISSING PERSONS

AS Chris Wittenberg's letter in the last Gazette reminded us, there is a sizable army of Vietnam War exiles in Canada and elsewhere, still being punished for refusing to fight for wrong. Amex/Canada, a publication for and about exiles, runs in each issue a "Missing Persons" column, that, as well as anything, illustrates the effect of our American war resister policy. A few excerpts:

Chris Stolley—"Never mind the past. Please call Dad or Grandma: (513) 871-0656 or 681-6541."

Terry J.N. --please call home collect. We all miss you. Love always, Mom, Dad, Mickey and Nappy.

Paul C. Minor --if possible, please contact your parents at 2716 Superior Ave., Baltimore Md. 21234 or call collect: (301) 665-6256 or your sister Susan: (203) 334-9031. "We're getting on in years and want to be in touch...."

Richard W. Pickerill, Jr. --you are beneficiary of an inheritance. Contact Julienne W. Holsclaw, 800 Mayfair Circle, Orlando Fla., (305) 894-7070.

Cindy Havel --Uncle Leonard hopes to hear from you. "I will not turn you in...please trust me... your call will not be traced." Call collect to the Eagle's Nest: (607) 748-1781.

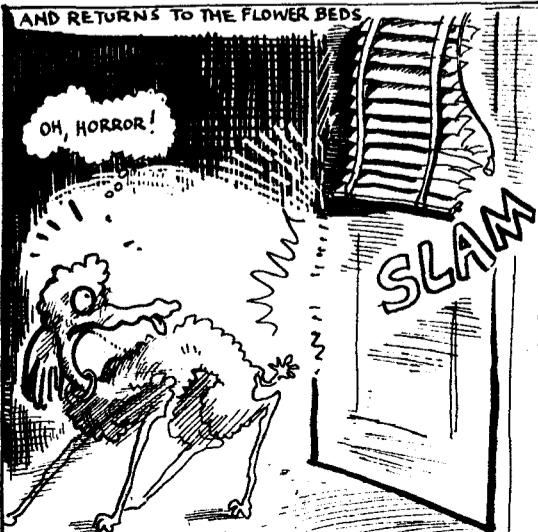
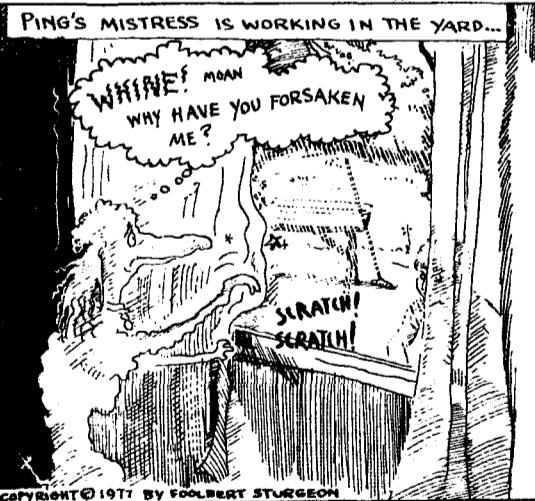
THERE'S A NATIONAL BOYCOTT sanctioned by the AFL-CIO, of Coors Beer underway. Brewery Workers Local 366 (4510 Indiana St., Golden Colorado 80401 — 303-278-9906) is fighting contract language that permits polygraph tests, search and seizure tactics, and discharge for uncooperative attitudes.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED: "GOOD NEIGHBORHOODS: The Challenge of Open Housing," by long-time housing integrationist Morris Milgram. Norton put it out. It costs \$10.95. New Republic says, "It is a book that blacks should read lest they continue to promote the false view that they are without sincere allies. . a 'do-it-yourself' manual for white integrationists locally, but . . . also a challenge — not quite a blueprint — for those who make public policy."

### DORMAN'S DOGGIE

STARRING "Pingy-Poo", the  
World's Most Disgusting Animal!

by Foolbert Sturgeon



## flotsam & jetsam

(In June, I was asked to give my first graduation speech at John Eaton School. John Eaton was one of the first schools in DC to add a 7th & 8th grade to a normal elementary curriculum, hence the somewhat odd situation of addressing a group of eighth graders at a graduation. Here is what I said:)

WHEN your principal, Mrs. Greer, asked me to give this speech, I don't believe she realized how fitting and proper a decision it was. For eighth grade was a high point in my career - my criminal career some might say. When I got to ninth grade, I reformed. For example, I gave up smoking, although I could still perform the trick I learned in eighth grade - holding a lighted butt under my tongue and flipping it into my mouth and closing my lips.

I have to confess that between learning long division at a DC public school down the hill in Georgetown and ninth grade, my recollection of education is somewhat fuzzy. Except for eighth grade.

In eighth grade I learned, as they say now, to deal with the system. Admittedly I didn't always do it very well. Sometimes we didn't deal very well with Mr. Brauniger, our math teacher, and he would make us do laps around the school building. We had more success with Mr. Gordon, our English teacher. I would later take another class from Mr. Gordon and realize that he was one of the great teachers. But in eighth grade he was just a challenge. You see Mr. Gordon was always late for class. We would station a guard at the door of the classroom so that we could do whatever it is that eighth graders do when the teacher isn't around. Mr. Gordon caught on and laid down a simple but eminently fair rule. If he came around the corner and got the draw on you first, you would have to stay after school. If you could go "bang" at him before he saw you, you were home free. It was high noon every day at 11.

Then there was last period Friday, a study period. The only thing was that the teacher never took attendance. We had a little club in the eighth grade: we called ourselves the Society of Cruds. Our insignia was the creeping crud - ball-point pen marks on the inside of our right wrists. Many members of the Society of Cruds were supposed to be in that Friday study period, but since our absence wasn't missed, we excused ourselves to take in the double feature at the movie nearby. Worse, we would send our smallest member in at half-price, and he would open the exit doors so the rest of us got in for free. Another member of our party would be the hat man, assigned to fill his cap with popcorn for us when the attendant wasn't looking. We never got caught until the last period of the last Friday of the school year, this very hour of our last Friday 26 years ago, when, as luck would have it, a substitute teacher showed up - and took attendance. It was, yes, the old gunslinger, Mr. Gordon.

Now before Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Parker, and Mr. Urquhart forcibly eject me from the room, let me state that I am not suggesting how the ideal eighth grader should behave. But it has been my observation that being a teenager is filled with more than its share of hassles, terrors, and frustrations, and it is perhaps reassuring to know that at least one totally disreputable eighth grader grew up to be invited to address a graduating eighth grade class.

Well, here I am half way through my speech and I haven't told you anything important, edifying, or useful - or may-

be I have. Because one thing we adults do to our children is conceal what rotten kids we were. And growing up is hard enough without feeling that everyone else does it without making a lot of mistakes along the way. So the next time some adult tells you that kids aren't as good or nice as they used to be, you tell them, "No, they never were."

Now the title of my speech is "The Future Lies Ahead." This pretty much sums up what people are meant to say at graduations, so I thought I would take care of it in the title and move on to some other business. It has always seemed to me that graduation was a little late to be giving advice but perhaps a few random notes may be of some assistance.

First of all, Parents: They're middle-aged, right? And Peter Ustinov says that the trouble with middle-aged people is that they're too far away from either of the most important mysteries of life: birth and death. My father used to say that the reason that grandparents and grandchildren got on so well was because they had a common enemy. For myself, I think one of the problems with parents is that they never can decide whether you should be in the White House or in jail. They exaggerate both their expectations and their disappointments. But remember that most often this exaggeration comes from two sources: hope and love. They have higher hopes for you than anyone other than yourself and this is nice. But you know your hopes often disappoint you and that's hard enough. It's even harder sometimes to deal with someone else who has high hopes for you, and I'm sorry to say it doesn't end when you leave your parents. At 39, I still find dealing with other people's expectations very difficult. John Cage, the experimental composer, once said that when people finally approved of what he did, all they wanted him to do was repeat it. He wanted to try something new, but the pressure was to just do it over again. This kind of dilemma will follow you to your grave, so relax and learn to live with it.

Love is also a two-edged blade. It provides warmth, humanity, and comfort, but it also demands and takes. Remember that Mr. Spock didn't understand love because it wasn't logical. In fact, especially with your parents, its manifestations sometimes seem to border on mental illness. Which is why, perhaps, so many people go to psychiatrists looking for love.

I can't tell you how to deal with this conflict except to recognize the unavailability of the free lunch. If you want to go through life with complete freedom, with unimpeded self-expression, then you also have to be ready to go through life lonely. If you want to share in love and community and mutual support then you have to be willing to give up something of yourself in return. Parents offer love and hope but in the process become like that definition of the English House of Lords - indefensible and indispensable.

Second, a note on being a teenager: Adults conform just as much as teenagers do. The problem is that teenagers are asked to conform to both adult and teenage values at the same time. This can get a little confusing. But there's something else wrong with the setup. Adults tend to regard your age as the ragged, unruly end of childhood, rather than the beginning of adulthood. Go back a couple of centuries and you'll find 16-year-olds who were captains of ships and 14-year-olds who were serving as apprentices or doing a full day's adult work on the farm. You are capable of it, but if you were to drop out of school and try to find a job in what we adults strangely call "the real world," you wouldn't have much luck. Why? The truth is that we need people to stay in school as long as they can in order to keep the unemployment rate down. It is not our social system but our economy that has determined that there be no useful role for teenagers. Now adults don't

want you to discover this so when you start demanding something meaningful, they may give you freedom rather than responsibility, and when the sort of aimless freedom that adults sometimes grant young people backfires in a car accident or a drug bust, we blame the teenager. It is, of course, stupid to ask young people to find purpose in life when the system is specifically designed to deny them a useful function. Well, pretty much. If we ever get in a war again, you'll find the country suddenly finding a place for you - on the front lines. I would think a country that can trust its teenagers to defend it in time of war could find more useful roles for them in time of peace. But we adults won't fight this battle for you, although we have taken a few steps, like lowering the voting age. You've got to figure it out for yourselves and make us listen. And you only have a few years in which to do it. Then, you, too, will be too old and may begin to stop caring.

Third, a note on failure: Everyone tells you how to succeed, but I bet you get damn little advice on how to fail - which is strange, because if you're normal, you're going to spend more time failing than succeeding. Try to learn the difference between the failure that comes from laziness, indifference, or stupidity and that which comes from other sources.

For example, there's the failure that comes with trying to do something that you won't be able to do right until tomorrow or the next day or next year. Those of you who took part in the musical yesterday know what I'm talking about. It took many hours of voluntary failure to produce one hour of success. And now that you've succeeded you perhaps have the courage to fail again so you can succeed at something even harder next time.

Then there's the failure of the just cause. Most good causes started out as lost causes. If no one had been willing to fail at a just cause, we would still be fighting in Vietnam, eating at segregated lunch counters, and the women in the Eaton class of '77 would not be expected to go to college.

Finally there is the failure that is not yours, but the judgment of other people. Don't let other people tell you when you've failed. Listen to them, but not at the exclusion of your heart or own judgment. Other people are poor judges of your success or failure.

One last note: I'm sure people have asked you, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" There are two things wrong with that question. First, I know and you know that you are right now. If you put off being until you're fully grown, you may discover that it's passed you by. Second, adults usually want you to respond with a noun: I want to be a doctor, a lawyer, an investigative reporter. You can fool them by answering with adjectives like I want to be warm, useful and happy. It is, after all, those sorts of wants that will matter most in the long run. If what you want to be is only a noun, you'll probably end up like that, and the sadder for it. But if you pick the right adjectives, you can end up like Frank Skeffington, the political boss hero of *The Last Hurrah*. In the last scene he lies on his death bed and one of his lieutenants piously intones, "Well, the one thing we all know is that if Frank had to do it all over again, he would have done it differently." Frank Skeffington raises himself from his bed, looks the guy in the eye and says, "Like hell I would," and dies. Happy.

Thank you.

- SAM SMITH



# Controlling housing instead of just rents

ON Saturday, June 25, there were two housing stories on the front page of the Post's Metro section. They weren't connected — but they could, and should, have been. One concerned the continuing donnybrook over rent control, headlined: "City Council Is Uncertain on Rent Bill."

The other story was about a tenants cooperative that had bought an apartment building on 16th Street. They started paying for it back in the 1950s. By 1973, the indebtedness — \$240,000 worth — had been paid off. A private appraiser recently estimated that the building might be worth as much as \$2 million.

There were no signs that the second story had made any impact in the offices of the city council, the Apartment Owners Association or the Citywide Housing Coalition, bitter antagonists in the struggle over rent control, which is too bad because the rent control battle has taken on some of the characteristics of two farmers so busy arguing over the fair price of a cow that neither notices the cow has walked away.

During quieter moments, members of the Citywide Housing Coalition have admitted that rent control is no long range solution to the city's housing problems. But the struggle over rent control has been so complex, so time-consuming and so anger-provoking that there has been little opportunity to reflect upon a future beyond the next meeting of the city council. It is the classic sort of battle that results from government by regulation: the liberals fight to strengthen the regulations; the commercial interests to weaken them; and fundamental alternatives are forgotten in the struggle over technical amendments.

As first aid, rent control has worked. For example, according to a recent study, income from garden units in DC rose only 5% during 1974-75 in comparison to 7.6% in Maryland and 8.6% in Virginia. Income from elevator units rose 4.6% in DC during the same period, while in Maryland the figure was 6.3% and in Virginia 6.8%.

But this is not the whole story. While one can control rents, one can not force a landlord to stay in the apartment business. And while it is pleasantly optimistic to think that housing code enforcement will prevent landlords from sluffing off on maintenance, there is no reason to believe that city hall will expend either the money or the effort to carry out such enforcement. Further, the ultimate threat behind an adequate code enforcement program would be that the city could condemn and take over improperly maintained buildings. At this point, the city is not financially nor politically ready to do this.

The truth is that rent control has led us to where it inevitably must without a complementary housing program: to the dilemma that if we end rent control, rents will rise, people will be evicted or suffer financial hardships and if we continue rent control, landlords will defer maintenance and increasingly seek other ways of making money, including the conversion of units to single-family homes, luxury apartments, condominiums or abandonment. The end result will be that the rental housing stock at reasonable prices will decline and that which remains will deteriorate.

The housing coalition argues that these phenomena occur in cities without rent control and that to make such arguments is just an attempt to kill rent control. Perhaps. But the study quoted earlier also reports a significantly lower increase in operating expenses in DC as compared with the suburbs, suggesting that landlords may be already cutting back on maintenance. And the increase in conversion of rental property to townhouses in speculative areas does not seem totally coincidental.

The housing coalition wants to keep the squeeze on the landlord. The moti-

vations and justifications for this are reasonable enough, but it may not just be the landlord who is the enemy. Economic reality may also be a foe. Can one reasonably over a long period control prices at the retail level without the power to control the prices behind the price that is controlled? Is there any way to force landlords or maintain the number and quality of rental units currently available even with rent control? These are questions that rent control advocates are reluctant to face.

The political quandry that the rent control movement faces is that because there has been no parallel struggle for a comprehensive housing program, it will either ultimately lose the rent control battle through legislative defeat or through a decline of its constituency as landlords get around the law anyway.

There are other things people concerned about housing should be considering that over the long run offer more hope than rent control. This does not mean you dump rent control, but rather you recognize it as a short-term tactical weapon to be used in order to achieve long-range strategic goals. Unfortunately rent control to date has not been used as such a weapon and so we seem to be fast approaching a point at which we will have neither effective rent control nor any long-range improvements in the housing situation. Nonetheless, it may not be too late to turn the housing debate in a new direction. Here are a few ideas:

- The city could redirect its development, planning and capital works resources towards housing. Instead of the pitifully small \$3-10 million proposed to start a housing finance agency, a much larger sum could be accumulated if, for example, we were to declare moratorium on subsidies to big business like the convention center, use Department of Housing & Community Development funds for housing rather than for an administrative bureaucracy, slash the Municipal Planning Office budget for the same purpose, and create a state bank using city deposits for start-up funds instead of the current plan of requiring only token housing efforts on the part of private depositories. While the capital funds of the city are far below what they were at the height of our recent spendthrift era of public works, the city is still planning to spend \$815 million in capital funds between now and fiscal year 1983, of which only \$1 million will go to the Department of Housing and Community Development, and that for neighborhood parks. This incredible imbalance could be corrected.

- Rent control advocates could recognize the logical conclusion of their position and move towards it: the significant reduction in the number of landlord-controlled units in the city. The tenants up on 16th Street — all retired people — recognized this two decades ago. They moved to take over their building. Today they have significant equity as well as control — something that even the strongest rent control law does not provide. The movement away from landlord predominance can be accomplished in a variety of ways:

A CITY POLICY ENCOURAGING TENANT TAKEOVERS OF PROPERTY THROUGH CONVERSION TO COOPERATIVES OR CONDOMINIUMS. The existence of a state bank and housing finance agency dedicated to these goals would be essential. Neighborhood credit unions, (which can now loan for housing) ANCs and other nonprofit groups can help. But as long as we think in terms of rent subsidies (which ultimately subsidize landlords) and other schemes to help tenants pay the landlord's price it will never happen.

A number of years ago, we proposed that the city simply buy McLean Gardens, the embattled northwest moderate income development, and sell it back to a tenants cooperative. It would have been a sure-

fire investment for the city and would have saved the Gardens. Further, it would have been one of the cheapest housing program the city has ever engaged in, even if the tenants had defaulted. But the idea never caught on, even with those fighting to save the Gardens. It seemed that a subconscious insecurity stood in the way, a tacit acceptance that apartments must be owned by a landlord. The price of this insecurity is great; today McLean Garden residents are facing not only a continuation of efforts to evict them to make room for a developer, but a significant rent increase as well. They could have been on their way to owning the place.

ANOTHER APPROACH WOULD BE TO RECOGNIZE THAT NOT ONLY DO TENANTS PAY FOR THE OPERATING COSTS AND OPERATING PROFITS OF LANDLORDS, BUT FOR A MAJOR PORTION OF THE EQUITY. They are the secret, disenfranchised purchasers of most apartment buildings. The landlord typically puts a small amount down and then pays much or all of the debt service out of the rent. The Gazette has previously proposed a tenants equity act, that would recognize the tenants legal right to contributions made towards the purchase of the building, just as the right of a single co-purchaser would be recognized if he or she went into partnership with the landlord. The tenant's equity would be accumulated as shares in a building or community cooperative, which in most cases would eventually become the majority owner of the building. Obviously, such a radical change in tenant-landlord relationships would have to be carefully phased in so as to not scare landlords into the same sort of avoidance tactics that they have used under rent control. But the proposal has one stunning advantage over most housing proposals; it would require no new money, only a change in the law to recognize what should be a fair business relationship between tenant and landlord.

FINALLY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT DC AND OTHER CITIES RECOGNIZE AS THEIR RIGHT AND DUTY TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC ENTERPRISE. As things now stand, cities are permitted to provide only those services out of which private enterprise can't make a profit. It is small wonder, therefore, that cities find themselves financially pressed. But there is no reason why cities shouldn't engage in activities that make a profit, especially in those areas in which private enterprise has shown itself willing to service only the most affluent segment of the economy.

The classic case of public enterprise is the public utility. (See the June-July Gazette for more on public utilities.) As with housing, liberals traditionally seek regulatory or subsidization solutions to the inevitable rapaciousness of local privately-owned utilities. And as with housing, it doesn't work. But the record in the case of utilities is strong for public ownership. Both in terms of price and social consciousness, public utilities are better than private ones. The public takeover of Pepco and Washington Gas Light would not only hold hope of lessening utility costs and improved responsiveness, but would have a direct bearing on the housing situation as utility costs have been one of the major bones of contention in the rent control issue. While there is no guarantee that a locally-owned utility would be properly and efficiently run, the record of other such agencies refutes the fears of liberals that public enterprises can't work.

There are other opportunities. If we are to establish a housing finance agency, for example, why limit its activities to the weak end of the market? Permit the agency to make conventional loans in Cleveland Park or Georgetown and use the profits to help subsidize other operations. If you are a homeowner, ask yourself this question: wouldn't you rather pay your mortgage to a city housing finance agency knowing that it was using the profit to help pay for low

and moderate income housing than to Perpetual?

The city could also follow the lead of developers who often find it more profitable to lease land than to sell it. Observe a typical case of what has happened in this town: the city purchases some land for urban renewal, perhaps at an inflated price. It then waits five to ten years looking for a purchaser, during which period it receives no taxes. Then it sells the land to a developer at a knocked-down price. Then it waits another several years until a structure is placed on the land so it can begin receiving significant taxes, which are not as significant as they might be because the city under-assesses it.

That's really not too much of an exaggeration of the traditional pattern. Now let's consider an alternative approach, say on 7th Street the morning after the riots. Walter Washington goes up there makes his speech about how we are going to start rebuilding in 100 days. We

chortle, but Walter has a trick up his sleeve. He's going to buy the land, lease it for \$1 a year for several years and then charge conventional rents. The bargain-hunters swoop in, within a few years 7th Street is booming again and the city is collecting rent — not just taxes. It could have happened, but because it didn't 7th Street still looks the way it does ten years later, and Walter is scratching for loose change to fund his city. Why? Because everyone assumes the city should only collect taxes and not rents.

Once you accept the concept of public enterprise, the whole financial and social picture of the city changes. You suddenly realize that while the city wants to cut back on residential trash collection because it costs too much, commercial trash collectors are doing a thriving business hauling away the effluvia of commercial buildings. If it's not socialistic to pick up a homeowner's trash then it shouldn't be socialistic to pick up commercial trash and charge for it just as private haulers do.

Or consider the proliferation of private guards in the city, a profit-making business from which the city is excluded and left to deal with crime in the street, from which no one (except the criminals) has found a way to make a buck. Why should not the city follow the lead of its former chief of police, Jerry Wilson, and go into the commercial security business?

The opportunities are endless, but will never be realized as long as we accept the business world's contention that only the "private sector" is allowed to make a profit. Under these rules, it becomes inevitable that the financial plight of the city will worsen.

The rent controls advocates have brought us close to the truth but have turned back at the gate. Their bitter experience attempting to preserve the benefits of rent control in the face of landlord lobbying and economic reality may, however, encourage them to take what is logically the next step: a housing program in which the government is not merely an ineffective regulator or a hidden subsidizer of commercial interests, but engages in the important and necessary public enterprise of helping people take control of their own housing.

## EARLY WARNINGS

YOU CAN FIND out about smoke detectors by visiting your local fire station, 10 am to 8 pm. Sample smoke detectors will be available. The fire department also has a hotline, so to speak, over which you can get a recorded message concerning the installation of detectors. The number is FD-SMOKE. The fire department estimates that fire deaths could be reduced as much as 40% here if all homes and apartments were equipped with detectors.

THERE'S ANC liaison office at city hall in room 116. Phones are 659-5185 and 629-5186.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY'S paralegal training for senior citizens, which is open to Washington area residents who are 55 years or older, will expand its program this fall to include specialized courses on disability, health care delivery, pensions, veterans' benefits, and consumer problems of the elderly.

The paralegal certificate program, offered by the Institute of Law and Aging at GW's National Law Center, is the only one in the metropolitan area designed especially for older persons. Registration is currently open for the next nine-month session, which begins in September.

IF YOU WANT TO RUN for ANC Commissioner, you can pick up your petition on August 26 at the Board of Elections. Twenty-five signatures have to be back by Sept. 9...TIP TO RETIRING COMMISSIONERS: Take out a petition anyway just in case no one runs in your district. If no one files, file and run. Then resign the day after your term starts. That way the ANC will be able to fill the vacancy. If no one runs, the seat will be vacant for two years.

THE METROPOLITAN COALITION FOR CLEAN AIR still is in deep financial trouble. Send a check to them at 1714 Mass Ave. NW, DC 20036 and breathe easier.

ANC 3F (North Cleveland Park-Forest Hills) has opened an office at 2955 Upton NW (B101), DC 20008. Telephone: 362-6120.

WASHINGTON INDEPENDENT WRITERS, a professional association of freelance writers and editors in the Capital area, has just published its 1977 registry.

The registry lists more than 450 member writers and editors by their subjects, specialties, past credentials and related professional experiences.

The 1977 edition, which includes a fall supplement, is available at \$10 a copy from WIW, Suite 710, 1010 Vermont Ave. NW, DC 20005.

HOST FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEER ESCORTS (high school age and older) are needed to welcome international participants of The Experiment in International Living. "Experimenters," 16 years and older, come from all over the world for 2 to 3 week homestays. Families, with or without children, who would enjoy introducing an experimenter to America, are needed throughout the year, particularly during the summer months. For more information on this opportunity, or on hosting an international high school student for 5 or 10 months, contact The Experiment's Washington Office, 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 802, DC 20036, (872-1330).

THE HOUSE OF IMAGINE, an inner city home for battered women is in need of beds, chests or other furnishings. For pick-up information call 547-8540 after 4:30 pm weekdays or anytime on weekends. The home is located at 214 P NW.

THE WASHINGTON AREA WOMEN'S CENTER regularly sponsors a women's rap group twice monthly on Monday nights. All women are welcome to participate. The meetings are held at the Center, 17th & M Streets, NW, Summer School Basement, at 8:00. Info: 347-5078.

The Washington Area Women's Center is a non-profit organization with 420 supporting members. Its primary purpose is to serve as an information clearinghouse and referral service. It offers alternative space as well as workshops, educational and artistic projects along with special women's events.

THE WASHINGTON AREA COUNCIL on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse has come out with its third edition of the Coping Catalog, a 168-page listing of resources in the metro area for alcohol, drug and other addiction problems. It costs \$5 and can be obtained by writing WACADA at 1330 NH Ave. NW, DC 20036.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES WILL offer a one week class on genealogical research beginning Sept. 26. The full day sessions cost \$50. Info: 523-3183.

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television; whence, judging from his columns, some thought he never left.

# dc eye

WE REALIZE THIS IS A FAMILY NEWSPAPER but we must draw your attention to page 10260 (sic) of the DC Register, which includes the following proposed changes to the zoning code as it pertains to bookshops and other businesses:

1. Add new definitions in Section 1202 as follows:

"Specified sexual activities: activities as follows:

1. Human genitals in a state of sexual stimulation or arousal;
2. Acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse or sodomy;

3. Fondling or other erotic touch of human genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breast."

"Specified anatomical areas: parts of the human body as follows:

1. Less than completely and opaquely covered: (a) human genitals, pubic region, (b) buttock, and (c) female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; and

2. Human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered."

CALL up Marty Schaller's office and ask for your free souvenir copy of the June 24 edition of the DC Register. But hurry. Pretty soon it won't be permitted in Georgetown.

and Willie Hardy to delete a proposed requirement from Neighborhood Commission legislation that would have required the Department of Economic Development give ANCs notice of demolition and construction permits? . . . WE HAD HEARD OF POLITICIANS BEING GERRYMANDED, but not while they're still in office. Yet that's what happened to one ANC commissioner. He was evicted for urban renewal. Forty-five houses in his district were torn down, forcing out about ten percent of his constituency along with its elected representative.

A FEW DAYS before last month's heat wave and suburban water crisis, Jerry Moore scheduled a hearing on how clean the Potomac River should be. Besides Moore, his assistant and two city hall employees, there were ten persons present, including two witnesses. Moore almost cancelled the hearing. Bailus Walker, head of Environmental Services, didn't bother to appear. Those present spent most of their time saying how appalled they were by the lack of governmental and public interest in the matter. Moore probably would not have been blamed if he had told everyone to go jump in the river.

WHO SAID: "The sound of the small notes tinkling grows fainter. There is not much more to say. There are no regrets, no looking back, nothing but the expectation of returning from whence I came." The Duke of Windsor? Adlai Stevenson? Richard Nixon? No, just our old friend Sander Vanocur rounding out his term as TV columnist on the Post. He's going back to

THE NEWSLETTER of ANC 3B brings us a fine example of our favorite literary style: police department gothic. Writing of the recent demise of the maitre d' of the Rotunda Restaurant, the investigating officer made this notation: "A. Goodarzi was found in an uncon- condition in his auto due to being shot in the head."

NORTHWEST GROUPS, including neighborhood commissions, are taking the lead in reaching independent accords with developers in return for dropping community opposition to specific projects. A developer in NC 3G and the prospective purchaser of the Rosedale tract in 3C have both reached covenant agreements with abutting neighbors, community groups and the commissions, restricting use and development of the properties.

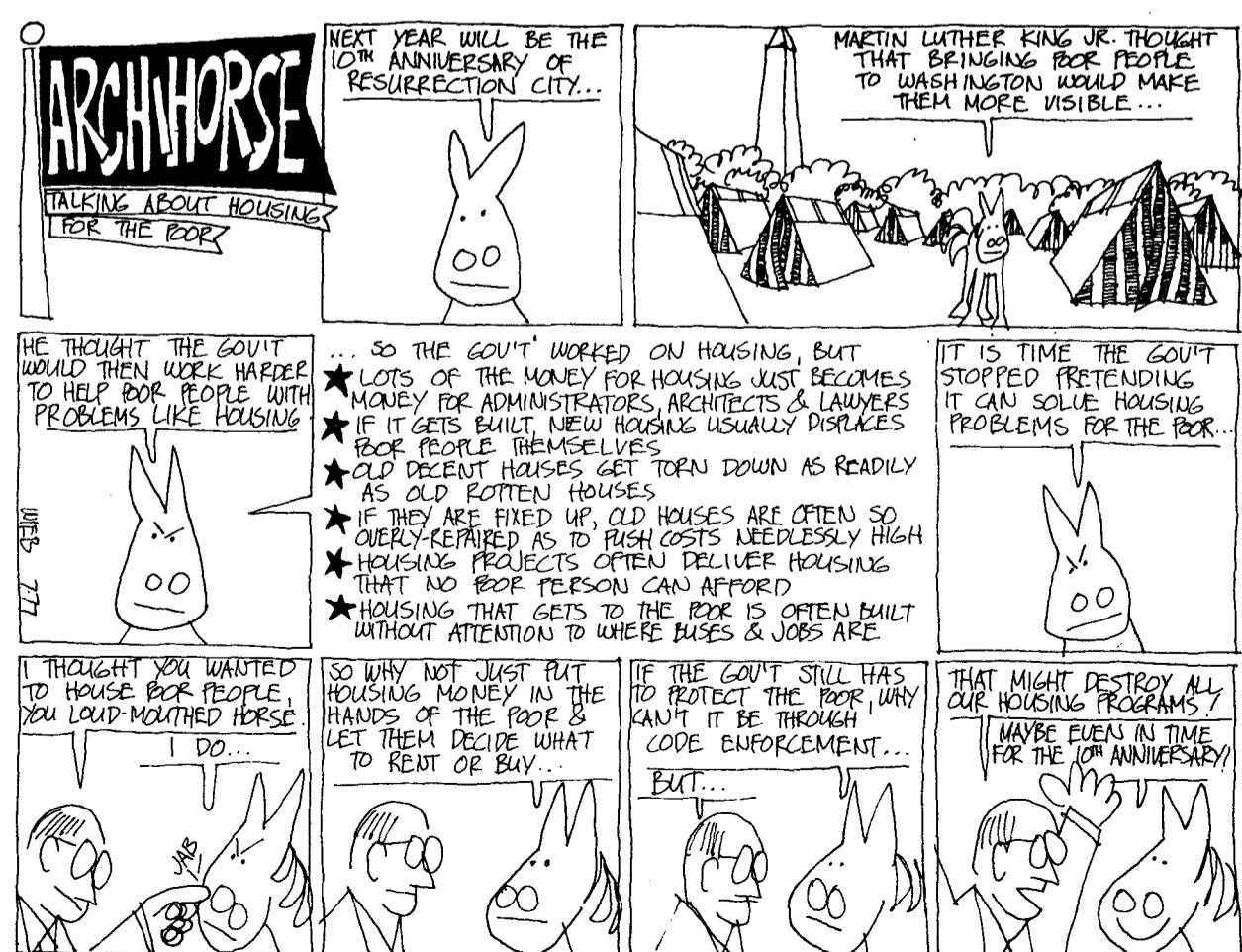
After many months of negotiations the Woodley Park Citizens Association has won a number of concessions from the developers of the new Sheraton Park Hotel, although in this case, no covenants were signed. In Adams Morgan, Perpetual has made a number of concessions, including the creation of a branch advisory committee, to the Adams-Morgan Organization and neighborhood commissions in return for the community dropping opposition to a branch at 18th & Columbia Rd.

The significance of these actions is that community organizations, tired of trying to obtain protection of their rights from city agencies, which tend to be anti-neighborhood, are learning to use their own latent powers. Together, they represent an important step in the development of local neighborhood government.

NOW A WORD OF HONDO TEXAS. There's a town that knows how to go about getting a civic center. Hondo wants the center but can't get federal matching funds unless the city has a higher unemployment rate than at present. So Mayor Leonard Glasscock sent a letter to President Carter asking for a list of 180 people "who won't work under any condition." He said he had considered asking local people to quit their jobs to meet the unemployment quota but decided it would be just as easy to import the unemployed.

ACCORDING TO JASON NEWMAN, grand trustee of home rule and ANC legislation, supporters of the initiative and referendum bill have a nasty shock coming to them after the referendum on the matter in the fall. If both houses of Congress don't approve the vote in 35 days it's dead under the home rule charter. Congress has never done anything short of war in 35 days. . . . ACCORDING TO A US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT SURVEY OF seven major cities Washington has the highest basic residential phone service charge, with one exception: Atlanta. . . . CAROL SCHWARTZ IS RUNNING again for her Ward III seat on the school board.

ANOTHER INTERESTING QUESTION ABOUT MARION BARRY: Why did he vote in committee with William Spaulding



# letters, comment & alarms

## APPLE PIE PROTEST

TEN AM, July 19 began my third week eating only apple pies from 50 states from Independence Day (July 4) to Hiroshima Day (August 6) to say PEACE IS AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE. Daily leaflets to White House tourists quote US presidents urging a small military and much justice; then call for spiritual renewal to put these ideas into practice by disarmament - beginning with no more nuclear weapons. This event coincides with a Peace Walk in Japan to emphasize international cooperation, builds world peace. PLEASE share this with your audience.

KRISS WORLINGTON  
Adams Morgan, DC

## WHAT'S HAPPENING TO NPC'S?

Can someone please tell us why The Neighborhood Planning Councils of D.C. are being destroyed?

The City Council refuses to talk about the grass-roots community programs forsaken to the Department of Recreation. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, for the most part, are equally indifferent to their sister/brother neighborhood institution. Even the federal Community Services Administration does not feel moved to investigate allegations of possible misappropriation of their poverty youth services funds by the United Planning Organization. The press and media refuse to cover the story. Delegate Fauntroy's office is unconcerned.

Meanwhile, the Department of Recreation may be raiding NPC funds although this was specifically prohibited by agreements worked out by the City Council last October. Recreation also waited until the last days to release public announcements for NPC elections in late April. (Curiously, UPO announced at that time that they would be giving great weight to the voter turnout in considering funding the NPC's after September 1977.) All of this, however, has not stopped Recreation from claiming credit for, and attempting to incorporate, the Stevens Day Care Program which was funded exclusively with \$16,000 of NPC 13 money. (That program has subsequently received national attention after Amy Carter began attending the Stevens School.)

NPC programs must also fight battles with D.C.'s Department of Manpower. The Department ran out of personnel action forms needed before youth can start their jobs. Manpower also had to be pressured to assign jobs to youth in their own communities; a function that used to be handled by each NPC.

Combined external pressures have taken their toll on overextended NPC leaders among whom, naturally enough, there is confusion as to what to do next. Our city-wide Council of NPC Chairpersons could not even meet between late April and mid-July as it took over two months for Recreation to count 5,489 ballots and release the official results. Rage is setting in among many of us who see neighborhood kids hanging out, drinking, shooting up and leaning towards crime.

We do not know if there will be NPCs after this summer. By then if Recreation, UPO, City Council officials inform D.C. citizens that the NPCs are not viable entities they will be telling you the truth. Through combined indifference (or conspiracy for fear of potential grass-roots power) they will have destroyed these democratic assemblies. Or, perhaps, NPCs will be allowed to linger. If kept alive, then, as after the 1968 uprising and 1974 youth riots, NPCs could be given some attention so they could, in Dick Gregory's words, "help cool the niggers" once again.

In mid-May, the City-wide Neighborhood Issues Convention saw the first step towards NPC-ANC collaboration. Extensive negotiations between these neighborhood institutions could resolve practical problems of funding, staffing, boundaries, jurisdiction, as well as psychological barriers that now keep the respective leaders apart. Potentially, a merger could give legislative protection and fulltime independent staffing to the NPCs. ANCs could benefit from direct contact with hundreds of local youth programs, a wider base of citizen support, and receive administrative funds that now go to Recreation, Manpower and UPO.

Another alternative is that the NPCs could be reestablished as an independent, citizen controlled city department. (See *D.C. Gazette*, April 1975). This could allow for the optimal use of the increased federal youth dollars that will flow to DC beginning in September. Why not get the most out of this money? If the NPCs allocate and administer these funds we will not only employ our young citizens, but train community leaders through their direct participation in planning, decision-making and management.

NEIL SELDMAN  
Neighborhood Planning Council 8

## SAYS OWEN'S OKAY

WITH respect to the comment in the last issue of the *Gazette* that you have never noticed Mr. Thornton Owen working on behalf of low income housing groups in the city, I thought you might take note of the attached. It describes a local effort that has met with some success due in no small measure to Mr. Owen's leadership as Chairman of the Federal City Council's Housing Committee.

EMMETT J. RICE  
President  
Federal City Housing Corp.

(Excerpts from the attached memo are reprinted below.)

In the spring of 1972, the Federal City Council (a prestigious civic organization of one hundred local professional and business leaders) persuaded HUD to make a special commitment of funds to the District of Columbia for the rehabilitation of up to 1,000 units of housing a year through 1976, over and above other housing subsidy funds allocated to the City. In return for this unique commitment, the Federal City Council established

the non-profit Federal City Housing Corporation which joined with the National Corporation for Housing Partnerships to sponsor the rehabilitation of low and moderate income housing in the center city under whatever were the most beneficial Federal subsidy programs available.

The rehabilitation work began in October, 1975, and the first 114 units in 1401 were ready for occupancy by December 1976. Another 104 units in 1400 were opened for occupancy in April 1977, resulting in a total of 218 units, consisting of: 17 efficiencies, 112 one-bedroom units; and 90 two-bedroom units. Under normal private market conditions the efficiencies would be expected to rent for \$250 a month, a one-bedroom for around \$300, and a two-bedroom for around \$350. However, because of the special nature of the agreement that led to approval of this project, HUD has agreed to provide an annual subsidy of more than \$600,000 to be used for rent supplements for all of the units. Under this program a tenant only has to pay 25 percent of his income or 30 percent of the normal market rent - whichever is greater. Under HUD regulations, these units were initially available to households with annual incomes between \$2,000 and \$8,000, if they also meet other requirements such as: over 62 years of age; or physically handicapped; or displaced by public action; or living in substandard housing. In April, 1977, HUD approved higher maximum income limits proposed by the District, up to \$14,600 for a family of four.

Another unique feature of this project is that the non-profit Housing Corporation established by the Federal City Council was to do more than act as a normal private developer under the Federal housing programs. The Corporation's Board of Directors consists of local leaders with a broad variety of backgrounds and experience, including residents of the 14th Street Renewal Area. In addition to insuring that decent housing is provided at the lowest possible rents to those most in need, the FCHC Board has agreed to re-invest its share of the net proceeds, if any, from the syndication and sale of its 50 percent equity interest in the project back into the 14th Street community for the economic and social benefit of the residents of that area.

## VULGAR VIOLATION

JOHN RISHER'S ATTACK on Council Chairman Sterling Tucker represents a vulgar and capricious violation of legal discretion and suggests political chicanery at the highest level. His motion before the DC Superior Court is a "below-the-belt" strike at an able and competent legislator. But it may signal more.

Mayor Walter Washington's contention that he was not advised of Risher's motion beforehand may indicate that Risher is splitting ranks with the Mayor. It may also signal the beginning of a brilliantly but diabolically developed pogrom by John Risher to rid the field of opponents to his own candidacy in the 1978 Mayor's race.

Watch out political opposition! You may be the next subject of John "Mr. Clean" Risher's bid for the top job in '78.

RICHARD C. SIEGEL  
At Large Member  
DC Democratic State Comm.

## SECTION 8 OPPORTUNITIES LOST

WE have recently discovered that the Department of Housing and Community Development has been allocated 570 units of Section 8 housing. To date, only 85 units are occupied. That means that 485 units of housing for low to moderate income residents is not being used. This situation is all the more shameful because tenants can use Section 8 subsidy in their existing housing. Landlords can also get low cost loans to bring their units up to standard.

These facts make it obvious that pressure must be brought to bear on our elected officials and DHCD to perform the functions they are being paid for.

RONALD E. COOPER  
Associate Director  
Friendship House

## UDC FROM THE INSIDE

IN recent weeks, the local media has focused on serious problems within our educational institutions. Some of the focus has been on reports of inadequate preparation and lowered standards, both at the secondary level and in the new University of the District of Columbia. The faculty members at Mt. Vernon Campus UDC, feel that we must offer some response to these issues which have such profound implications for the future of higher education in this city.

It is necessary to begin by emphasizing that the mission of UDC is a difficult and complex one, as the original missions of the three component institutions were individually complex. DC Teachers College has the longest history, and is itself the result of the merging of the formerly segregated Miner and Wilson Teachers Colleges. Washington Technical Institute and Federal City College are still developing institutions, brought into being during a time of great turbulence in our nation's cities and on college campuses everywhere. The task at WTI was perhaps more clear - technical and vocational training - than at FCC which opened as a four-year liberal arts college.

In 1968, when the college opened, all higher education was under severe scrutiny. Institutions with long histories and established traditions had difficulty functioning. They struggled to come to grips with a changing role in a volatile social atmosphere. The new Federal City College had all this plus additional problems to cope with. As an urban, open-admissions college - the first urban land-grant institution in the nation - it came into existence in surroundings scarred by the angry riots of April 1968.

Within this unstable and highly-charged environment, Federal City College opened its doors to students who had long been deprived of low-cost public higher education. They carried with them additional burdens

imposed by a formerly segregated school system - a system beset with its own unresolved difficulties. FCC's first students were not typical college students. They were often older, trying to juggle jobs, family and school. They were (and still are) mostly first-generation college students with no one who had gone before them to show them the ropes. The first student body president noted that there were many students at FCC who did not know how to go to college, and that there were many faculty members who did not know how to teach students who did not know how to go to college. He was right. Everyone in those beginning years had a great deal to learn. Confusion often prevailed, despair was not infrequent, but a sense of hope persisted. FCC continued to cope with problems which institutions with far greater resources had failed to solve. Many important things were accomplished; many students who would never have attempted college succeeded and have gone on to prove the value of their experiences at FCC. This truth and others were perceived by the accrediting team from Middle Atlantic States which gave the college a glowing accreditation in 1974.

None of the above is meant to distract anyone from the real problems which still exist. Those of us at the college - faculty and students alike - must face them daily, and spend many hours in often painful and frustrating deliberation. We do this, knowing that some of these problems are unique to our situation, and that many of them are epidemic in the country. Grade inflation, decreased academic standards,

(The following is excerpted from the "Report of the College-wide Committee on Self Study", published by Federal City College in January 1974, as part of the preparation for accreditation:)

WHEN measured against the general undergraduate population of other four year public colleges, the FCC students are older; they have been out of school longer prior to entering college; and they have a lower family income. Many students are married, employed either full or part-time, and attend college part-time. Hence, the period between entrance and graduation for many of our students is longer than four years. An overwhelming majority of FCC students are native-born black Americans.

Whereas 97% of the students usually found in public four-year colleges are under 21 years of age, an average of less than 10% of the FCC student body since 1968 has been under twenty-one years of age. A majority of FCC students consistently fell in the twenty-one to thirty-five age group. For the past three years (1970-1973) the average age of the FCC student body has been twenty-eight years with a median age of twenty-six. The typical FCC graduate is correspondingly older than most college graduates who receive undergraduate degrees.

In that students holding the rank of freshmen make up the bulk of the student body, and in that the students are generally older than their rank counterparts found elsewhere, we can conclude that the majority of our students have been out of school for periods ranging from four to seventeen years prior to entering college. According to the American Council of Education, 85% of the students included in their survey in 1972 entered college in the same year that they finished high school.

In November, 1968, college officials reported that 81% of the students enrolled were employed either full or part-time. Using the 1971-72 student population, the Office of Institutional Research reported that 72% of the student body was employed.

Although most of our students are employed, their family income level is far below the estimated parental income of most freshmen in publicly supported institutions. According to the Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies, based on the 1970 census statistics, the median income for black families in the District was \$8,488. The Office of Institutional Research in 1971-72 stated that the average family income of the FCC enrollees was \$6,200 per annum. For the same period (1971-72), the American Council on Education reported that fewer than 15% of American college students surveyed came from families with a parental income of less than \$6,000 per year.

declining basic skills and so on have appeared in even the most selective schools with students from the most privileged backgrounds. We do not excuse our failings, but we must insist that they not be focused on to the exclusion of all our really remarkable achievements. As faculty, we deeply believe that we are part of a unique institution which is serving its special population very well. We quote the accrediting report:

*This urban institution, the first urban land grant college in the country is well on its way to accomplishing greatness in its own right as it realizes its own peculiar mission - fulfilling the higher education needs of its community through a combination of both intellectual training and service activities. The resultant behavioral mosaic from the mission has coalesced such that it has made the institution an exciting place for its students, faculty, staff and administration.*

Its bad press and its attempts to serve as a restoration college (one which serves people historically excluded - prison residents, older students, working students, and parental students, has led many, excluding FCC students and faculty, to view Federal City College as a second-class entity. What the team found was a first-class, quality operation in a second-class context. The context leads to second-class budgets, second-class allocation of resources. . .and a comparison of FCC to other institutions which are not in Federal City College's league . . . in short, FCC's first class status demands the elimination of the existing second-class context.

The team collectively has talked to about 1000 students and alumni . . . surely one negative person could be found. We found none. If anything impressed the team, it was the Federal City student. They believe in Federal City College. With the recipient of services feeling so positive, FCC cannot help but argue for a first-class context in fact and

perception. . . The students' attitudes and behavior are shaped by the uniqueness that characterizes the way the faculty relates to them - open and accessible. The faculty deserves high praise for its candor, openness, and accessibility. . . in every school in the college, the students believe in Federal City faculty. This belief has uniformly overwhelmed the team.

It is important to remember that these opinions are those of respected educators from other institutions with no vested interest in the college. The citizens of this city should be proud.

As teachers and professionals in our individual fields, we pledge our dedication to high academic standards and to continuing efforts to aid those who have previously been educationally deprived. It is a delicate balance we are after, but a goal so essential to the well-being of our society, we cannot imagine turning away from it.

In order to accomplish these goals, we need time, resources and support. We solicit the understanding of all those who have positions of influence over the future of the university. We ask help in telling the full story so that as many as possible can know what in fact goes on, that for every failing, there are numerous successes. We regret the continued emphasis on the deficiencies of a developing institution and wish to call deserved attention to the genuine, positive accomplishments.

An open invitation is extended to any and all who might care to visit, talk with faculty, staff and students, and, in general, experience what really happens first-hand. Perhaps then the perception of the accrediting team can be validated and become the prevailing vision of the new University of the District of Columbia.

FACULTY SENATE  
Mt. Vernon Campus  
University of DC

#### SELECTING A UDC PRESIDENT

It is unfortunate that the candidate selected for the presidency of the University of the District of Columbia was unable to accept because of an emerging crisis at the institution where he is currently employed.

Under these circumstances it may be well to reflect upon the experience of the D.C. Board of Education in selecting superintendents for the elementary and secondary schools over the past ten years.

Between 1967 and 1976 the local public school system had four superintendents who came from other parts of the country with impressive credentials. These individuals were faced with a myriad of administrative, financial, academic and political problems peculiar to this school system. It was emerging, as is UDC, from a closed, non-responsive system to one characterized by increasing openness and responsiveness to the community served.

Credentials aside, without the benefit of an intimate knowledge of and participation in this developing system, the above-mentioned chief executive officers were at an extreme disadvantage and were unable to establish order and effectiveness in their administrations.

Conversely, the current Superintendent of Public Schools, a veteran of many years in the system and one having risen through the ranks, has been able to gain acceptance of his administration and its policies and is now focusing on the essential purpose of the school system, the pursuit of effective educational training.

The University of the District of Columbia, our public institution of higher education, may want to consider following the same course adopted by the elementary and secondary school system after their unfortunate experiences with several "highly qualified" superintendents from other jurisdictions, and take advantage of the talent, knowledge and experience gained by an "on board" educator during that official's incumbency.

It may be well to note that in recent years there has been, at the University, quite effective calming of troubled waters and competent presiding over this emerging institute for academic excellence. This seems also to have been attended by an understanding of the relationship, in the 1970's, between low-profile and effective leadership.

WILLIE DAVIS  
UDC Student



# The Swampoodle Report

EDDIE LEONARD is going out of business. That's the worst news from the gastronomic front since Chez Francois moved to the suburbs.

Now I would be the first to admit that Eddie Leonard's sandwiches are nothing to brag about. They taste best at 1:30 am after four whiskies and nothing to eat since 5 o'clock. On the other hand, Eddie Leonard's pizza by the slice is clearly the best widely available this side of the O-Joy stands at suburban shopping centers. And I'll take an Eddie Leonard orange drink over an O-Joy any day. Not excessively sweet, delicately diluted, the EL orange is a first-rate quencher.

We have an Eddie Leonard's in our neighborhood but most of my neighbors wouldn't go near it except under duress. Its clientele appears heavily skewed towards Metro construction workers who, judging from the license plates on their pickups, come from the culinary ghettos of the suburbs where Gino is king and Arby weighs its alleged roast beef by the gram before transparent plastic gloves drop it onto pasty white rolls. Eddie Leonard's must seem like heaven to one forced to commit Ginocide. Besides, its pizza by the slice is actually two slices.

But soon it will be sold and god knows what the new owners will do. In any event, one more grand Washington eating tradition will be gone.

I have been a consistent patron of those eating establishments, such as Mr. Leonard's, that rarely make it into the Washington Post until they close their doors. Occasionally a cute column or extremely eclectic guide will refer to them but usually their day in the media sun is the day of their obituary.

As it was with Eddie Leonard's so it was with the Stanton Grill. For a number of years, the Stanton Grill — at 5th & C NE — saved me the trouble of cooking. Run by a couple of Greek brothers, Pete & Sam, the Stanton Grill was open from 6 in the morning until ten at night. Pete and Sam split the shift; Pete, full of bluff blarney, and Sam, soft-spoken and kind. They never took a vacation. They put at least one boy through college through their unflagging provision of braised short-ribs, chicken Greek-style and the Supreme's "I Hear A Symphony" calling from the juke box. They fed the old Capitol Hill roomers, the guys from the union hall down the street and a few young singles like myself, with good, plain food that varied over the years no more than the shade of brick on the school house across the street. Nobody paid any attention to them until they finally announced they were closing up. Then the Post did a big story and about what an institution they had been. They shut their doors and a few months later, the Stanton Grill turned into a real estate office.

Down the street was a classic Victorian building with cupola and extruding fire escapes that was a combination rooming house and headquarters for "Mary's Blue Room." The quality of the food was minimal but when they started to tear it down, the neighborhood got up in arms. Such places have an ambience that stretches beyond their doors.

Even with the disappearance of the Stanton Grill and Mary's Blue Room, though, Capitol Hill still had its share of greasy spoons. There was still "Jimmy T's," the x-ray oven at the East Capitol St. Pharmacy, and the ice cream counter at Grubbs. Further south, Boone's Lunch at Eastern Market transcended the mundane and occasionally made it into "cheap eats" listings.

But for ambience combined with grilled onions (two things I look for in greasy spoons), there was nothing like Spack's Chicken on the Hill. This eminent eatery featured a music box in the window and "the world's smallest bar" — a collection of liquor miniatures on a few shelves in the corner. It also featured Harry Spack, who played chess with customers at



the end of the counter next to a back room filled with old 78 records that Harry collected. The steak in the steak sandwiches was as thin as tissue paper, but when buried under a mound of oil-dripping fried onion, who cared? Pennsylvania Avenue and Capitol Hill have been, as they say, "renovated" now. That means you can choose between McDonald's and Roy Rogers or one of the singles bars touting \$2.50 cheeseburgers. The Little Tavern down near 7th Street, where hamburgers were once so cheap you bought them by the bag, has been turned into a Middle Eastern restaurant.

The decline of Washington's concern for the modest gourmet began a long time ago. It was, as I recall, in the early sixties that they killed the DC Diner, the all-time king of restaurants that Donald Dresden would never visit. Situated on a parking lot on Vermont Avenue, the DC Diner was an honest-to-god silver diner, although somewhat gussied up inside at one end with a few booths and pictures of race horses. The time to visit the DC Diner was after midnight. You would be joined by pimps, prostitutes, policemen, college students and other late night folk. On one side of the grill reposed a huge mound of hash brown potatoes. A five gallon potato chip can under the counter was filled with salad.

You would order, say, steak and eggs. The counterman would drop a steak on the grill and break a couple of eggs nearby. Then with one meaty hand he would grab a fistful of potatoes and slap them down on the hot part of the grill. He would turn and with the other hand remove your portion of salad from the five gallon can and set it before you. A few moments more and the grilled items would be ready. You would be eating less than five minutes after you arrived.

But like the Stanton Grill, Boone's Lunch, Mary's Blue Room, and Eddie Leonard's after it, the DC Diner finally went out of business, replaced by some redundant monument to urban sterility.

Which leaves us having to buy our cheap food from some guy on the west coast who teaches his staff to say "Howdy Partner" to us and thinks that will make up for the lack of grilled onions.

Fortunately, all is not lost. As long as there's Schwartz's drugstore, the plebeian stomach will still be sated. As soon as I read of Eddie Leonard's retirement I rushed down to Schwartz's for a double-cheeseburger with grilled onions. Schwartz's is so ambience-endowed that even the dailies have taken note of it. But I'm not sure this is a good thing. There are signs that the Schwartz's may be letting success go to its head. Schwartz's has always been a place where abnormality was normal. But the other morning I was sitting at the counter when a man walked in with a baseball cap on. Perched on the cap was a plastic elephant and on top of that a propeller. The man behind the counter looked up, shook his head, and said vehemently, "That does it."

What did he mean? Is a dress code at Schwartz's around the corner? Tiffany lamps and \$2.50 hamburgers? The plastic pachyderm and the counterman's comment

brought to mind the elephant joke about what Tarzan said when he saw six elephants with sun glasses and berets driving MGs across the veldt. He also said, "That does it." But he added, "I'm closing down this god-damn jungle."

I'm worried. I don't know where I would go next.

THE SWAMPUDLIAN RESEARCH BUREAU has been hard at work on another problem. You may have heard that Metro has slightly misplaced some of its subway stations. Its stop at National Airport, for example, isn't at National Airport at all, but at a distant parking lot. It also turns out that the zoo stop isn't at the zoo either, but about a half a mile away. Now conceivably, this could all be changed at great expense by moving the stations or building people movers. But there is a simpler solution. Simply change the names of the stations. For example, the airport stop could be renamed, PARKING LOT or AIRPORT OVERLOOK (or come to think of it, AIRPORT OVERSIGHT might not be bad.) Another alternative would be to follow the pattern of such stops as FARRAGUT NORTH and DUPONT CIRCLE SOUTH and call the stop AIRPORT VERY FAR NORTH AND A BIT TO THE WEST.

A similar approach could be taken at the zoo stop. Options suggested by our design team include SO-CALLED ZOO STATION, PANDAMONIUM or some neutral title like LUTZPLATZ or PFANSTEIL PFLATZ.

I HEAR that John Risher has taken to sending correspondence to the city council chairman addressed, "To Whom It May Concern." The same source told me, "Isn't it nice that Washington now has its own Howard U's scandal?"

ONE CONSOLATION with not having Eugene McCarthy as president is that we have him around to comment on the president. He recently described Jimmy's performance as an example of "the cockeral step." He explained: "That's where the rooster picks his leg up and thrusts it out boldly in front as if he is going some place, but then slowly brings it back to where it started."

STILSON HUTCHINS, where are you now that we need you?

*Josiah X. Swampoodle*  
Purveyor of  
split infinitives  
for over 39 years

